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Japan

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney Continues Visit

Meets LDP Secretary General

OW2311035391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 23 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on Saturday called for an international effort to pressure North Korea into accepting inspections of its nuclear facilities.

During a meeting in Tokyo, Cheney told Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki that Japan, the U.S., South Korea, the Soviet Union, and China should combine to pressure North Korea on the issue, LDP officials said.

The U.S. and South Korea claim North Korea's nuclear facilities are aimed at the development of nuclear weapons.

Cheney told Watanuki that the issue will be a major topic during President George Bush's new year visit to Tokyo.

The defense secretary is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe later Saturday.

Talks With Trade Minister

OW2311045491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0447 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 23 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney urged Japan to continue taking a tough stance toward North Korea when he met Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister for international trade and industry, on Saturday.

In their Tokyo meeting, Cheney said North Korea could arm itself with nuclear warheads as early as next year and Japan, which is negotiating with Pyongyang to establish diplomatic relations, should press North Korea to accept nuclear inspections, a ministry official reported after the meeting.

Watanabe promised that the ministry, which controls exports, will play a major role in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the official said.

Watanabe also said he is concerned about possible price liberalization in the Soviet Union while there still is a business monopoly by national enterprises, saying it could fuel inflation.

Cheney said it is essential that Western countries and Japan enhance ties with all the Soviet republics.

Council Advises Miyazawa on U.S. Supercollider

OW2211034191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Science Council of Japan President Jiro Kondo on Friday asked that the government not dip into domestic research budgets should it decide to cooperate financially with a multibillion dollar U.S. superconducting super collider (SSC) project, government officials said.

In a letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Kondo stressed the necessity for drastic reform of scientific research and educational facilities in Japan in order to promote more international academic cooperation, the officials said.

Kondo handed over the letter of request to Miyazawa at the prime minister's official residence Friday morning.

The Science Council chief wrote that the reform is also needed because Japan's research and education facilities have been deteriorating in recent years.

Although Kondo did not express opposition to Japanese cooperation on the U.S. research project, he indirectly called for Miyazawa to insure that the cooperation does not suppress the current scientific research budget.

The Science Council serves as an organization for establishing contacts with academic organizations overseas, and also plays a role of mediator between the government and scientists.

U.S. President George Bush is expected to seek up to 1.6 billion dollars in aid for the SSC project during his visit in January of next year, according to Japanese Government sources.

The 8.2 billion-dollar project, currently under construction in Texas, is scheduled to be completed in 1999.

The supercollider consists of an 85-kilometer circular tunnel, which scientists say will direct protons at each other at a near-light speed, resulting in collisions that recreate the intense forces present at the origin of the universe.

EC Vice President Arrives on 2-Day Visit

Watanabe States Tariff Opposition

OW2511103591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told European Community (EC) Vice President Frans Andriessen Monday that Japan is adamantly opposed to a conversion of its rice import curbs into tariffs, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Watanabe told Andriessen in a 100-minute meeting that Japan is opposed to even broaching the idea of rice tariffs due to domestic constraints.

Officials said Watanabe was replying to Andriessen's remarks that while the rice problem is understandably difficult for Japan, participants in the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks must make every effort to bring it to a successful conclusion, especially in the realm of agriculture.

Andriessen, who arrived in Japan earlier in the day on a two-day visit, said the EC and the United States share the belief that the round as a whole would be greatly facilitated if all participating countries were to agree to replace nontariff barriers to imports of agricultural products with temporary tariffs.

Andriessen denied that the EC and the U.S. have reached any breakthrough agreement on agriculture, saying the two sides have merely come closer to each other's positions on the reduction of supports and the period over which those supports should be reduced.

Officials said Andriessen expressed concern over Japan's staggering trade surplus with the EC, which reached some 23 billion dollars in the first 10 months of this year.

Watanabe was quoted as saying he is sure the EC is aware that the surplus is primarily due to the upswing in demand from unified Germany, which he predicted would only be temporary.

Japan's trade surplus with Germany is one-third of its surplus with the entire EC.

Andriessen told Watanabe that while the "German factor" is undeniable, the fact that Japanese imports from the EC are falling is also a source of concern, the officials said.

Responding to Andriessen's call for sufficient and timely Western aid to central and East European countries and the Soviet Union, Watanabe said Japan will not stand for the EC unilaterally declaring what Japan's share of the burden should be.

He pointed out that Japan continues to link aid to the Soviet Union to progress on resolving in its favor a territorial dispute over four northern islands seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II.

Andriessen's visit represents the first high-level meeting between Japan and the EC since their joint declaration in The Hague last July, which called for intensified dialogue and strengthened global cooperation.

His visit was originally expected to mark the fifth Japan-EC ministerial meeting, which would have been participated in by two EC ministerial-level representatives and six on Japan's part. But the meeting was postponed due to the inability of EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry to attend.

Holds Talks With Miyazawa

OW2511120591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Frans Andriessen, vice president of the European Community Commission, met with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Monday and called for a political decision to forge a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilataral trade talks within this year.

Andriessen said the EC and the United States are closing positions on the agricultural sector, though they have not yet reached an agreement on the time frame and breadth for reducing farm subsidies.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official quoted him as saying that a solution will be difficult unless the EC position is recognized on intellectual property, the service sector, and other areas.

Andriessen also told Miyazawa that European public opinion could not accept the U.S. position that Europe should reduce production and agricultural exports, while increasing imports, the official said.

An EC official traveling with Andriessen said that the next 10 to 14 days would be crucial for determining whether the talks would be successfully ended this year.

Miyazawa did not express his opinion on the thorny talks, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Japan is under pressure to open its rice market to imports, but it has stated it will not accept proposals to do so by applying tariffs.

Andriessen also expressed concern over the EC's burgeoning trade deficit with Japan, and called for more Japanese imports of high-technology products in the areas of communications, electronic components, and aircraft, the Japanese official said.

Miyazawa and Andriessen agreed in their 30-minute meeting that the increase in EC demand following the unification of Germany was partly responsible for the increase in Japanese exports, the official said.

Andriessen voiced concern, however, that exports to Japan were falling due to a drop in the rate of economic growth, which is widely seen as curbing demand for luxury products from Europe.

Andriessen is to meet with Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and travel to Osaka Tuesday to deliver a speech at a Japan-EC journalists' conference before returning home.

Complains of EC's 'Limited Access'

OW2511131791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Frans Andriessen, European Community (EC) Commission vice president for external affairs, voiced frustration Monday over the EC's limited access to Japan's telecommunications and satellite markets, a Japanese government official said.

In talks with International Trade and Industry (MITI) Minister Kozo Watanabe, Andriessen also asked Japan to treat EC trade concerns equally with those of the United States, the ministry official said.

While praising Japan's effort to trim its external trade surplus, Andriessen said he felt EC-made telecommunications equipment and satellites were still encountering barriers to the Japanese market.

He said that such high-tech items enjoy a large market share outside Japan.

Watanabe responded that Japan has made a steady effort to open its telecommunications market, including the elimination of tariffs on telecom imports.

He also said Japan's private-sector satellite firms depend on supplies from France's Ariane Space for much of their rocket-launching services.

The minister also indicated that the EC may have itself to blame for its poor market penetration and suggested that it redouble export efforts.

Andriessen also reportedly expressed his displeasure with what he believes is preferential treatment being given to the United States on bilateral trade matters, citing a recently announced plan by Japan's major automakers to boost imports of U.S.-made auto parts.

In an apparent reference to the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks and other Japan-U.S. bilateral trade negotiations, Andriessen said Washington seems to have considerable leverage with Tokyo in resolving bilateral trade disputes.

Watanabe said that such a view was mistaken and that Japanese trade policy is evenhanded.

He also promised that Japanese automakers will release schemes concerning auto parts from the EC and other countries similar to those they issued, in line with the recent accord on the market- oriented sector-selective talks between the U.S. and Japan.

Japan's five biggest automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co., announced their intention earlier this month to nearly double their purchases of U.S. auto components in fiscal 1994.

The MITI chief also called for strengthened "global partnership" between Japan and the 12-nation trading bloc, particularly in the current round of global trade talks, the official said.

Despite differences in views, the two countries should do their utmost to successfully complete the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he said.

Andriessen concurred, saying that no matter how difficult, Brussels will strive to resolve its dispute with Washington over farm subsidies, the largest remaining stumbling blocks in the five-year GATT round.

Andriessen added that he hopes for a more collaborative and less adversarial relationship between the EC and Japan down the road, proposing closer bilateral cooperation in the electronics parts sector, the official said.

Official Denies Proposed Economic Group Merge

OW2511092391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 25 KYODO—A Japanese embassy official Monday described as "speculation" a news report that Tokyo hopes to merge the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) with the ongoing Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"There is no concrete proposal on this. Japan has yet to decide its stand on the EAEC," he said, clarifying the news report in the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, a Japanese economic daily.

Japan has so far remained noncommital about the Malaysian-proposed EAEC, which is strongly opposed by the United States. Washington, excluded from the grouping, says the EAEC is a trading bloc and has asked Japan not to join it.

The news report, quoting government sources, said Japan will acknowledge the EAEC as a "nonpermanent forum" of trade ministers which would gradually be merged with APEC.

The suggestion will be made to the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has adopted the EAEC proposal, before the ASEAN summit in Singapore in January.

The daily said the Japanese proposal will help Malaysia "save face" while at the same time accommodating the U.S. stand and avoiding antagonizing Japan's biggest market.

The embassy official said Japan will decide on the EAEC when "details such as modalities, its intentions, and framework are clearer."

These details are expected to be worked out when ASEAN leaders endorse the EAEC proposal at their summit and issue membership invitations.

The U.S. has said it will oppose any attempts to form regional economic groupings in East Asia which threaten to exclude the U.S. and split the Asia-Pacific region.

It prefers any moves by regional countries on economic matters to be contained within the 15-member APEC, which includes the U.S., Japan, and the ASEAN states.

Ozawa Criticizes Miyazawa Over Rice Issue

OW2511112291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, acting chairman of the ruling party's largest faction, criticized Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government Monday for exploiting external pressure to resolve sensitive domestic political issues such as rice market liberalization.

Ozawa, who currently heads the faction founded by Noboru Takeshita, the Liberal Democratic Party's largest, said using such a traditionally passive approach to settle domestic disputes is irresponsible and must end.

"Using gaiatsu (external pressure) to help settle disputes only deepens rifts (between the Japanese and American peoples) and it's not good," Ozawa said. "Rice is one," he added.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe suggested in a speech in Tokyo that participating countries in the protracted Uruguay Round trade talks have to reform their farm policies over a period of "about 10 years."

Banks Cut 'Super' Time Deposit Interest Rates

OW2511024091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Eleven commercial banks on Monday simultaneously cut the interest rates on so-called "super" time deposits and large-lot time deposits with a maturity period of one year and over.

The cut stems from the reduction in the official discount rate on November 14.

"Super" deposits are time deposits in amounts ranging from 3 million yen to 10 million yen, and large-lot deposits are those with 10 million yen and above.

The banks were mixed in respect to deposits for a period of six months and under. Some cut the rate and others left it unchanged.

As of Monday, three-year super rates were cut 0.25-0.35 percentage point to 5.90-70 percent annually, with Kyowa Saitama Bank offering the highest rate.

Two-year rates were also reduced by 0.25-0.35 point to 5.75-65 percent. Rates on one-year deposits were lowered by 0.30-0.50 point to 5.60-35 percent. Here too, Kyowa Saitama gave the highest rate.

Bank Governor Mieno Denies Propping Up Economy

OW2511032791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Monday the latest cut in the official discount rate was not aimed at pumping energy into the economy, which has been slowing recently.

In a speech to a group of businessmen, the central bank chief said the rate reduction was made with a medium-term view on the economy while taking into account supply and demand.

The BOJ last cut the discount rate by half a percentage point to 5 percent on November 14.

Mieno acknowledged that a slowdown in corporate capital spending is worsening, but was quick to indicate that deterioration in corporate activity will not warrant another cut in the base rate.

The latest rate reduction, he said, has set the stage for "an environment under which excessive adjustments can be avoided" on the monetary front.

Looking closely at the state of the domestic economy, Mieno said it as a whole is slowing gradually, but said he does not see the possibility of an immediate falloff as the underlying strength of the economy remains firm.

He said the economy is now in the process of returning to normal after years of excessive growth.

In other remarks in the speech, Mieno said Japan's ballooning current account surplus is caused by special factors and said the expansionary trend will not last long.

Among the factors, Mieno cited a sharp fall in gold imports and expensive artwork and a decline in the number of Japanese traveling abroad.

Dismisses Stimulating Domestic Demand

OW2511060691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno on Monday dismissed growing calls that the Central Bank take measures to stimulate domestic demand, claiming such steps are likely to jeopardize price stability and worsen the global shortage of savings.

Mieno, speaking at a lecture meeting in Tokyo, said the balance of supply and demand in the domestic market is still tight and there is vast potential demand for funds stemming from the rapid moves to market economies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Expanding domestic demand under such circumstances, whether in order to boost the slowing economy or stem Japan's resurging trade surpluses, will be detrimental to noninflationary growth of both the Japanese and world economies, he said.

Mieno stressed that the recent cut in Japan's official discount rate by half a percentage point to 5.0 percent a year was intended to pave the way for middle-term steady growth with price stability, and not for giving a boost to the sagging economy.

The current slowdown in the domestic economy, he said, is a "desirable correction after several years of excessive economic activities," and the base rate cut has set the stage for a continued adjustment of the economy.

Mieno said the Central Bank's monetary policy is conducted with the primary emphasis on the medium-term prospect, with an eye on a "desirable picture" of the economy.

He said the current slowdown is different from past ones in three ways, in that it is taking place at a time of stable overseas economies, still-brisk corporate capital spending, and falling money market rates. Mieno emphasized that the current level of economic activity, although weaker than at the peak of "bubble economy-supported" expansion, is still historically high.

Housing investments, auto sales, and capital spending, whose declines he called the three principal drags on the economy, are strong yet compared with the levels before the "bubble economy" of booming stock and real estate prices set in, Mieno said.

The current slow growth of the money supply and bank lending poses no threat to the "real economy," he said.

All in all, there is little possibility that the economy will decline sharply in the near future, the Central Bank governor said.

Turning to the recent upturn of Japan's trade surplus, Mieno attributed it to "special or temporary" factors, adding there has been no change in the basic trend toward narrowing imbalances.

Japan's economic structure has undergone a major change since the Maekawa Report of 1986, which urged expansion of domestic demand to rectify the external imbalances, and the structure is no longer such that it is skewed toward increasing Japan's surpluses, Mieno said.

On the other hand, he said, the economic conditions surrounding Japan have changed radically since the report, including a much tighter supply-demand balance in the Japanese economy and the ongoing economic reforms in the former Communist countries, so that any move toward stimulating domestic demand at this moment would be more harmful than beneficial.

In order to stem the increase of the trade surplus, Japan should open its markets wider to imports and keep the yen on a steady upward trend rather than moving to boost domestic demand, Mieno said.

Ministry Wants New Land Tax To Meet Shortfalls

OW2211144691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official said Friday that revenues from a new land tax to be levied from next April will have to be used to cover a serious revenue shortfall expected in fiscal 1992.

The official made the remark after Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, strongly urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa earlier in the day to use the new land tax revenue solely to keep land prices stable.

He said every effort should be made to avoid issuing deficit-financing bonds.

Cutting government spending and increasing tax revenues will be most important in compiling a state budget for fiscal 1992, the official said.

Mongolia

Country Name Changed to 'Republic of Mongolia'

OW2111165191 Beijing XINHUA in English 1616 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, November 21 (XINHUA)—It was decided here today that the name of the People's Republic of Mongolia will be changed to the Republic of Mongolia, dropping the word "people's."

At the current second session of the 12th Great People's Hural, the representatives debated for two days on three suggested names for the country.

In a voting that took place this evening, 67 percent of the representatives of this highest power organ voted for "The Republic of Mongolia," which will be the official name of this country after a new constitution comes into effect.

Chairman Says MPRP To Undergo Name Change

LD2311213491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1546 GMT 23 Nov 91

[by TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 23 Nov (TASS)—We are striving to maintain the present structure of power in Mongolia, declared Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon, chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP]. Such a task is wholly achievable, given that at the present time 84.3 percent of the deputies of the People's Great Hural and 33 of the 52 parliamentary deputies are members of the MPRP.

In an interview with UNEN, Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon confirmed that at the forthcoming 21st party congress it is planned to change the party's name, excluding the term "revolutionary". The changes which have taken place in recent years in life within the party are at odds with this concept, he explained. However, a change of name to the Mongolian People's Party does not mean complete renunciation of the concept of the MPRP, the party leader declared. According to him, it is too early in Mongolia to speak of building socialism—for that one needs an economic base. We regard socialism as a long-term goal; whereas we think the immediate goal is to bring the country out of economic crisis. This is another argument in favour of changing the name of the party.

The term "socialism" is missing from the chief draft documents drawn up for the congress, but they are nonetheless imbued with socialist ideas. This is a matter of tactics, dictated by the aim to prevent any schism in the party. In the longer term, Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon stressed, it will be necessary to work out a concept based on Marxist-Lenninist teaching which corresponds to conditions in Mongolia.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Estonia

OW2411030991 Beijing XINHUA in English 0146 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, November 23 (XINHUA)—The people's Republic of Mongolia established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Estonia last Wednesday, the Mongolian Ministry for External Relations announced here today.

Estonia thus becomes the 111th country with diplomatic ties with Mongolia.

North Korea

Statement Endorses Simultaneous Nuclear Inspection

SK2511123491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 25 November]

[Text] Statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry:

Removing the nuclear danger and achieving denuclearization on the Korean peninsula are drawing international attention. Our government considers the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea as essential for guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula and has made steady efforts to realize this.

When our government signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it expected the United States, as a signatory, to discharge its legal obligation required by the treaty and to discontinue a nuclear threat against us, as well as respond to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The United States, in possession of nuclear weapons, is obliged to cease activity with nuclear weapons which is threatening toward signatory countries who do not possess nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, the United States continues to threaten our republic with nuclear weapons, creating an atmosphere for a nuclear war. In doing so, it has systematically violated the obligation required by the treaty.

Since the republic signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the resolution of the nuclear safeguard accords has been delayed. This is entirely attributable to the United States, which has violated its treaty obligations and ignored our just demand for withdrawing nuclear weapons from South Korea and removing the nuclear danger.

Some time ago, U.S. President Bush announced a proposal for reducing tactical nuclear weapons. According to the proposal, the United States admitted that nuclear weapons have been deployed in South Korean for a real war and revealed its intent to withdraw them.

Regarding this U.S. measure as a way to lead us into signing the nuclear safeguard accords, we welcomed his proposal. After the proposal, the South Korean person in authority announced a declaration on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. We estimated that though belated, the South Korean person in authority, who has objected to even the word "denuclearization" announced a proposal with some points in common with our proposal to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities had taken such an attitude before, our signing the nuclear safeguard accords would not have been turned into the complicated issue it is.

As a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, we have never opposed the signing [chegyol] of the nuclear safeguard accord itself. Rather, we have made all sincere efforts to sign the accord quickly. Since we signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, we have justly claimed that we will sign the nuclear safeguards, which is our obligation required by the treaty. Therefore, the United States, as the treaty requires, should withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea and remove the nuclear threat against us.

Despite the nuclear weapons in South Korea, the United States is forcing a unilateral inspection on us while saying that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea.

As everything becomes clear, if the United States had accepted our just demand from the beginning and taken a positive measure like its current proposal, the issue of our signing the nuclear safeguard accords would have been resolved long ago and there would not have been an issue.

Whether our signing the nuclear safeguard accords will be easily and rapidly settled depends on how sincerely the United States is committed to the pullout of nuclear weapons.

As for the South Korean authorities: When we put forward the proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, they should not have blindly opposed it but accepted it.

The North and the South, as the same fellow countrymen, should not develop nuclear weapons and should accept a simultaneous nuclear inspection. From this standpoint, the DPRK Government declares:

First, if the United States begins the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea, we will sign the nuclear safeguard accords.

Second, both an inspection to confirm U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and an inspection of our nuclear facilities should be carried out simultaneously.

Third, DPRK-U.S. negotiations to discuss simultaneous nuclear inspection and removing the nuclear danger against us should be held.

Fourth, because the North and the South expressed a common will not to develop nuclear weapons and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, they should hold North-South negotiation to achieve this.

The DPRK Government and people are convinced that our aboveboard proposal for removing the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, for guaranteeing peace and stability here, and for safeguarding the peace of Asia and the rest of the world will enjoy positive support of the peace-loving parties and the people of all countries of the world.

25 November, 1991, Pyongyang

Paper Comments on Security Consultative Meeting

SK2411084391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 24 Nov 91

["Dangerous Military Confab for Another War"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today condemns the "Annual Security Consultative Meeting" and "military committee meeting" held between the United States and the South Korean authorities in Seoul as a criminal confab of trigger-happy elements to increase the tensions on the Korean peninsula and light the train of war against the North on the pretext of "checking" the fictitious "threat of nuclear development" by the North.

A news analyst of the daily says: The military session was a dangerous war confab at which they hatched a sinister plot to tighten their aggressive and treacherous military tieup, formally make a clean sheet of the "plan of phased reduction" of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and step up arms buildup and aggressive preparations for a nuclear war, openly resorting to threat and blackmail against us on the false pretext of "checking the nuclear development" of the North.

They openly wove a war plot at a time when an agreement was reached at the North-South high-level talks to adopt a common document on North-South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange and its drafting currently under way. This cannot but be viewed as a belligerent, rash act making us feel deep apprehensions for the future of North-South dialogue.

The voluble talk of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets about "threat of development of nuclear weapons" and "checking" it is a shameless, false propaganda reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!"; it is a despicable trick to impair our republic's peaceloving stand and anti-nuke policy and conceal and justify their own adventurous scheme for a nuclear war.

Their loud outcry for "nuclear inspection" on the plea of fictitious "nuclear development" by the North is aimed at reinforcing their nuclear armed forces, stepping up nuclear development of South Korea and, furthermore, provoking an adventurous nuclear war against the North on the pretext of our refusal to accept it.

We aspire after peace and do not want war, but we are never afraid of it. Should the aggressors dare start a reckless war gamble, obsessed with war fever, failing to look straight at the will of our people, we would deal a thousand-fold counterblow at the provokers.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must act with discretion, not running riot with their anachronistic daydream.

Parties, Groups Denounce U.S.-ROK Accord

SK2311064491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 22 Nov 91

["Text" of joint statement issued on 22 November by DPRK political parties and public organizations to denounce the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement—read by announcer]

[Text] Despite the unanimous objection of all fellow countrymen who hope for the country's peace and peaceful reunification, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets produced another criminal war document on 21 November.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets officially signed the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement on that day. It had been provisionally signed on 25 July, at what is known as the 23d annual Security Consultative Meeting held in Seoul on 21 November.

This Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement, consisting of nine articles and two supplements, stipulates that the puppets should give munitions and logistical support to the U.S. imperialists so that they can swiftly and effectively throw their aggressive forces into South Korea, reinforce, or redeploy them there, and can reinforce and redeploy them in a contingency.

Under this agreement, not only in war but also in peace, the roads, harbors, and airfields across South Korea will be offered to the United States upon request, along with various facilities and oil, ammunitions, and other such things. In addition, the puppets will also provide the United States with the stockpiled war supplies, control of equipment, and mobilization of manpower, and so forth.

The puppets will also bear the expenses of various forms of military exercises staged in peace time.

This unequal agreement grants the U.S. imperialists unrestricted powers and privileges to freely requisition and mobilize South Korean manpower and material resources and imposes upon the puppets unilateral obligations to unconditionally satisfy the brigandish demands of their masters.

The Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement finally signed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets this time is an aggressive and predatory agreement that enables the U.S. imperialists to tighten their military domination and control over South Korea even more, perfect the preparations for a new war even more, make the provocation of a new war in Korea a fait accompli, and requisition and mobilize all manpower and material resources of South Korea even more effectively.

Where the Mutual Defense Treaty fabricated between the United States and the Syngman Rhee puppet government has granted the United States unrestricted powers to use South Korean territory, air space, and waters, the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement signed between the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u puppet clique this time is a treacherous and nation-selling agreement under which the hearts and internal organs of the South Korean people are totally offered to the U.S. masters.

This agreement is also an extremely reckless and dangerous war document intended to provoke a new war at any cost, while gravely trampling underfoot the detente and peace on the Korean peninsula.

Regarding it as an aggressive and traitorous war document aimed at bringing the dark clouds of a new war of aggression, a nuclear war, to the Korean peninsula, the political parties and public organizations in the northern half of the republic resolute denounce the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement in the name of all the Korean people.

The people in the North and South and abroad are now unanimously nursing an ardent desire to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, promote national reconciliation and unity, and realize an independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Reflecting such a desire, various forms of contacts and talks are under way between the North and South, while the two sides, after agreeing to adopt a joint document on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges, and cooperation between them at the North-South high-level talks, are now drafting the joint document.

At a time when the international community keeps moving toward detente and disarmament, the withdrawal of troops and military equipment deployed in some other countries has now become an unstoppable trend.

Even so, the unchanging U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have played the game of signing such an undisguised war treaty as the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement under the pretext of preparing for a contingency. This gravely challenges peace on the Korean peninsula and, going one step farther, the cause of peace in Asia and the world at large, as well as being a wanton violation of our people's desire for a peaceful reunification.

Moreover, the United States, which has been talking about a phased reduction of arms in South Korea and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from there, has forced the puppets to join in producing an aggressive war document making the military buildup and military action legal. This shows only that the U.S. imperialists are deceiving world opinion and mocking the South Korean people and all the Korean people with their ambiguous words and double dealings.

We find it more than natural for the South Korean youth, students, and people from all walks of life, long condemning what is called the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement as something intended to turn South Korea into a semi-permanent U.S. military base and harden the master-and-servant relations between South Korea and the United States even further, have peremptorily opposed and rejected it as another Ulsa Treaty [the Protectorate Treaty between Korea and Japan concluded in 1905].

The No Tae-u ring clearly revealed again the true color of an accursed modern version of a pro-American flunkeyist traitor far worse than the five traitors who signed the Ulsa Treaty by signing the criminal treacherous document in defiance of the people's protest.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have created a precondition for bringing the aggressive forces from the continental United States and overseas bases without restriction and installed an institutional mechanism to more easily ensure military actions of the aggressive forces. As a result, tensions on the Korean peninsula have become more acute, and the danger of war has reached a more serious phase.

The war moves of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea will be staged more openly under the protection of the so-called law, the South Korean people will bear a heavier burden of military spending, and the entire fellow country will face a more realistic danger of war than ever before.

In addition, with the United States and the South Korean puppets discussing sanctions and even military attack on the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear development at what is known as an Annual Security Consultative Meeting, the danger of war on the Korean peninsula is now growing, sending off bigger sparks.

The situation requires that all North and South Korean people here and abroad pay deep attention to the danger of a war, a nuclear war, hanging over the nation and turn out as one in the nationwide struggle for safeguarding peace in the country and for promoting its peaceful reunification.

Considering that we have the legitimate right to declare null and void the aggressive and treacherous Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement which goes against the will and desire of the South Korean people and run counter to the aspirations and demand of all the people, the political parties and public organizations in the northern half of the republic strongly insist on scrapping this war document without conditions.

At the same time, we express the hope that all the South Korean political parties, groupings, and people from walks of life will daringly turn out in a massive struggle to have the criminal Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement, a fabrication produced on an aggressive and treacherous bargaining table, nullified and to have U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn.

Ours is an era of independence.

The United States must take its aggression and intervention off the Korean peninsula, clearly mindful that its foolish acts to trifle with the destiny of our nation by fabricating an aggressive document with the traitors forsaken even by the people will go bankrupt.

The South Korean authorities must promptly stop the antinational acts to plunge the fellow countrymen into the holocaust of a nuclear war in league with outside forces, opposing the opposing side to dialogue, their fellow countrymen.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express the conviction that the political parties, public organizations, and international organizations, and peace-loving people in many countries of the world who value peace and social justice, will pay due attention to the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is being strained by the United States and the South Korean authorities; raise their voices denouncing them; and extend support and encouragement to our people's cause of peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

[Signed] The Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, the Chondoist Chongu Party, the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Central Committee, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, the Korean Democratic Women's Union, the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, the Korean Journalists Union, the Consultative Council in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, the Korean Christian Federation, the Korean Catholics Association, the Korean Chondoist Church Central Guidance Committee, the Korean Buddhist Federation, the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea, the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association, the DPRK Red Cross Society, the DPRK Olympic Committee, the Korean National Peace Committee, the Asia-African Solidarity Committee of Korea, the Korean Antinuclear Peace Committee, the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People

[Dated] 22 November 1991 Pyongyang

SKNDF Calls U.S.-South Accord 'Unpardonable'

SK2211154191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) bitterly denounces before the nation and history the "wartime support agreement", a product of the pressure of the United States and the flunkeyist treacherous act of the No Tae-u group, branding it as an unpardonable treachery against our people who desire independence and want peace and peaceful reunification, declares the Hanminjon Central Committee in its statement November 22.

The statement notes:

This time the U.S. forced the signing of the "wartime support agreement" which provides a precondition for bringing combat forces into a war on the Korean peninsula from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases without restriction in the event of contingency and installs an institutional mechanism for swift and unhindered combat action. This is an acceleration of its aggressive policy on the Korean peninsula to further strengthen its military domination over South Korea and complete the preparations for a new war.

This shows that there is no change at all in the U.S. policy of war on the Korean peninsula in spite of the worldwide trend of detente and peace involving the withdrawal of overseas troops and scrapping of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons and makes it clear that it is coming close to the door of a new war threatening the existence of our nation in actuality today.

The United States and the No Tae-u military group, through the signing of the "wartime support agreement", have openly revealed their anti-national belligerent moves to check the relaxation of the situation and disturb peace on the Korean peninsula and start another war.

The finalization of the text of a North-South nonaggression declaration is now under way and much earlier the sides formed single teams for table tennis and soccer games, encouraging national unity and desire for reunification.

The signing of the "agreement" at a time when the 70 million fellow countrymen are turning out to achieve national reunification in the 1990's, clearly shows that while calling for "confidence first, unification next", the No group, in actuality, does not have the willingness for confidence-building intended for peace.

We can hardly repress towering resentment at the No group' flunkeyist act in offering even the five viscera and six entrails of the fellow countrymen to outside forces for the latter's interests.

The South Korean people cannot leave their destiny and future to outside forces and the dictatorial "regime" and can never overlook the prevailing grave situation.

Hanminjon, on behalf of the entire people, solemnly declares null and void the aggressive and treacherous "wartime support agreement" signed between South Korea and the United States.

The people of all social strata who are fighting at the cost of their blood for independence, democracy and reunification must nullify the "agreement" with concerted efforts of all the people.

Our people, mindful of the sufferings of the divided nation, must invigorate the anti-war, anti-nuclear peace movement to decisively smash the U.S. line of war.

Even though they signed the "agreement", the United States and the No group of traitors cannot stop even a little while our people's national liberation movement and the movement for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the South Korean rules will meet their doom as a group of traitors.

KCNA Reports U.S.-ROK Excercises 21-22 Nov

SK2411083391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged large-scale joint aerial war exercises in South Korea on November 21 and 22 with the mobilisation of more than 400 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes, according to military sources.

On November 21, when the extra-large aircraft carrier Independence anchored at the sea off Pusan, the U.S. imperialists sent Pacific-based E-3A AWACs plane and P-3 patrol plane to command the flying corps and combatant ships mobilized in the war exercises and, at the same time, commit an aerial espionage on the northern half of Korea.

On November 21 and 22, a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and Army tactical reconnaissance planes made repeated flights from east to west in the sky above the military demarcation line for an intensive aerial espionage on the frontline and strategical depths of the North side.

In another development, on November 21, tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery units and motorized infantry units of the puppet army deployed near Uijongbu and Rinje staged an attack exercise against the North, firing bullets and shells under the cover of more than ten fighter-bombers and assault planes. And formations of armed helicopters flew above South Korean Kangwon Province in an aerial strike exercise.

The warplanes mobilized in the military exercises in South Korea on November 21 and 22 totalled more than 1,100.

All these war gambles fully prove that new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to realize their design for northward invasion are entering into a very grave stage.

'Military Provocations' in DMZ 22 Nov Reported

SK2211155091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1522 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets committed a military provocation of illegally introducing a tank into the Demilitarized Zone in the eastern sector of the front on November 22.

At about 15:40, they brought a tank into the DMZ 1,000 metres south of the marker No. 1,110 of the Military Demarcation Line and levelled its gun at our side, gravely threatening the safety of our side's civil police.

Earlier, the South Korean puppets introduced a 90 mm recoilless gun into the area of the headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission 700 metres southeast of Panmunjom at about 12:50.

This is a deliberate and premeditated provocation to intentionally screw up the situation in the DMZ.

We cannot but consider such military provocations of the South Korean puppets to be more serious because they were committed after bosses of the U.S. imperialist aggression troops showed up in the front area, whipping up a war fever.

Our people and the soldiers of the People's Army are closely watching with heightened revolutionary vigilance the ever more undisguised war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continue reckless military provocations, they will be held fully responsible for the consequences to be entailed therefrom.

Paper Comments on U.S. 'Rowdyism' in Pusan

SK2311053191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 23 Nov 91

["Robber-Like Outrage of Aggression Troops"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (KCNA)—Seamen belonging to the U.S. Seventh Fleet staying at Pusan port, South Korea, behaved rudely on November 20, assaulting citizens and destroying furniture of a bar.

Commenting on this rowdyism, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

It was a high-handed outrage which could be committed only by the U.S. imperialist aggressors, colonial tyrants, who regard South Korea as their colony and the South Korean people as "an inferior race."

The U.S. imperialists present South Korea as an "independent state," waxing eloquent about "relationship of companions" with South Korea. But, never have they treated South Korea with respect. The U.S. assistant secretary of state for security who accompanied the state secretary to South Korea some time ago got on the plane without going through passport procedures when leaving South Korea, thus causing quite a stir. The U.S. imperialist aggressors, keeping South Korea under their military occupation, perpetrate criminal assults every day, every hour, enjoying all extraterritorial privileges.

Though the people are constantly suffering national humiliation and immeasurable losses at the hand of the U.S. imperialist aggression troops, the No Tae-u ruling group has just signed the "wartime support agreement" offering South Korea to the United States as its "permanent military base."

The South Korean people can never be safe and they cannot be freed from the calamities, sufferings and misfortunes of today as long as the aggression of the U.S. imperialists in South Korea and the treacherous flunkeyism of the No Tae-u group towards the United States are left unchecked.

City, County Elections Begin; 88 Percent Vote

*SK2411080891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0757 GMT 24 Nov 91*

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—Elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies began at 10 a.m. today across the country.

The elections are going on at the constituencies and sub-constituencies according to the regulations of elections of deputies to the People's Assemblies at all levels of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Now the voters are taking part as one man in the elections which will consolidate as firmly as a rock the revolutionary power with high pride and honour of being the citizens of the republic as the masters of the country and power.

According to data available, 88.09 percent of those registered on the voters' lists cast their ballots as of noon today.

The polling is going on.

Central Guidance Committee Reports on Elections

*SK2511055991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0527 GMT 25 Nov 91*

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—A report of the Central Guidance Committee for the elections to the city and county People's Assemblies of the DPRK was published today.

According to the report, the elections were held successfully on November 24 amid the high political enthusiasm of all the people strictly in accordance with the "Regulations of Elections of Deputies to the People's Assemblies at All Levels of the DPRK."

The results of elections show that 99.89 percent of the entire voters participated in the elections and 100 percent of them voted for the candidates for deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies registered at the constituencies.

Those staying abroad or engaged in pelagic fishing could not take part in the elections.

26,074 workers, peasants and working intellectuals who, with intense loyalty and filial duty to the party and the leader, had devotedly worked for the country and the people, for the strengthening and development of our people's power were elected deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies.

The elections powerfully demonstrated once again the might of our people-centred socialism based on the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses and the superiority of our socialist system, an embodiment of the chuche idea.

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Vote in Elections

*SK2411090291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0830 GMT 24 Nov 91*

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song voted at constituency No. 22 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, today for the election of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies.

The electors there who had the great honour of participating in the elections together with president Kim Il-song were overwhelmed with surging emotions and joy.

At 10:00 President Kim Il-song arrived at the polling station.

He was accompanied by Comrade Kim Chong-il, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and minister of People's Armed Forces, and Kye Ung- tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., WPK.

He was met on the spot by Yang Hyong-sop, member of the C.C., WPK, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the Central Election Guidance Committee; and Choe Mun-son, member of the C.C., WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; and Kang Yong-yong, chief secretary of the Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, committee of the WPK and chairman of the Mangyongdae District People's Committee.

President Kim Il-song cast a ballot handed by the chief of the constituency for labour hero Yi Yong-pin, workteam chief of a power line construction office who is a candidate for the deputy to the district People's Assembly.

The senior party and state officials accompanying him voted then.

The electors who participated in the significant elections together with President Kim Il-song were filled with the firm determination to further exalt our socialism centered on the masses by further strengthening and developing the People's power and bringing about a new upswing in socialist construction under the banner of the three revolutions, upholding the party's leadership.

Political Bureau Members, Officials Vote

SK2511053991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0359 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—Cadres of the party and the state took part in the elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies on November 24 at polls in all parts of the country together with voters.

Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee and vice-president of the DPRK, voted at constituency No. 1 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, for Kim Yong-kwan, chairman of the Management Board of the Mangyongdae cooperative farm who is a candidate for the deputy to the Mangyongdae District People's Assembly; Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-president of the DPRK, at constituency No. 101 in Pyongchon District, Pyongyang, for Cho Hak-chon, vice-director of the Taedonggang battery factory who is a candidate for the deputy to the Pyongchon District People's Assembly; Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 19 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Kim Hwa-son, head of the Taedongmun grocer's shop of the Central District General Foodstuff Store who is a candidate for the deputy to the Central District People's Assembly; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 35 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Cho Pok-yon, a worker of the Central District Maintenance Company who is a candidate for the deputy to the Central District People's Assembly; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, at sub-constituency No. 1 of constituency No. 134 in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, for Kim Pil-so, chief secretary of the Hyongjesan District Party Committee and chairman of the Hyongjesan District People's Committee who is a candidate for the deputy to the Hyongjesan District People's Assembly; Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 126 in Yongsong District, Pyongyang, for worker Chon Kwan-sik who is a candidate for the deputy to the Yongsong District People's Assembly; Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 146 in Sosong District, Pyongyang, for Choe Ho- chon, a worker of the Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex who is a candidate for the deputy to the Sosong District People's Assembly; Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong provincial party committee and chairman of the North Hamgyong provincial People's Committee, at constituency No. 144 in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, for Chang Un-hak, a smelter of the blast furnace shop of the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex who is a candidate for the deputy to the Chongjin City People's Assembly; and So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, chief secretary of the South Pyongan provincial party committee and chairman of the South Pyongan provincial People's Committee, at constituency No. 57 in Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province, for Kwak Yong-kon, chief secretary of the Pyongwon County party committee and chairman of the Pyongwon County People's Committee who is a candidate for the deputy to the Pyongwon County People's Assembly.

Hyon Mu-kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Control Committee of the WPK Central Committee, voted at constituency No. 3 in Pyongchon District, Pyongyang, for Cha Yong-sil, a worker of the Pyongyang garment factory who is a candidate for the deputy to the Pyongchon District People's Assembly; Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 68 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Hwang Chong-yop, chairman of the Central District Sports Guidance Committee who is a candidate for the Central District People's Assembly; Choe Yong-im, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 53 in Chollima District, Nampo Municipality, for Choe Tong-chol, a smelter of the furnace No. 1 of the steel shop No. 1 of the Chollima steel complex who is a candidate for the deputy to the Chollima District People's Assembly; Hong Song-nam, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 8 in Songyo

District, Pyongyang, for Kye Chol-hwan, deputy president in charge of management of the Pyongyang University of Light Industry who is a candidate for the deputy to the Songyo District People's Assembly; Hong Si-hak, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 48 in Morangbong District, Pyongyang, for Kim Won-chin, a worker of the Pyongyang cigarette factory who is a candidate for the Moranbong District People's Assembly; Kim Chol-man, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 84 in Kangdong County, Pyongyang, for worker Yi Yong-hwa who is a candidate for the deputy to the Kangdong County People's Assembly; Kim Pok-sin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 66 in Songyo District, Pyongyang, for Kim Yong-sil, deputy head of the combined chemical fibre shop No. 1 of the Pyongyang textile combine who is a candidate for the deputy to the Songyo District People's Assembly; and Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 2 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, for Yi Se-un, vice-chairman of the Mangyongdae District Administration and Economic Guidance Committee who is a candidate for the deputy to the Mangyongdae District People's Assembly.

Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, cast his ballot at constituency No. 75 in Sunan District, Pyongyang, for Yi Tae-han, chief secretary of the Sunan District party committee and chairman of the Sunan District People's Committee who is a candidate for the deputy to the Sunan District People's Assembly; Pak Nam-ki, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 52 in Sunchon, South Pyongan Province, for Yi Ho-kun, a worker of the carbide shop of the fertilizer factory of the Sunchon vinalon complex who is a candidate for the deputy to the Sunchon City People's Assembly; So Kwan-hi, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 149 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Han Ho-chan, a worker of the Central Office for Post and Publications Conveyance who is a candidate for the deputy to the Central District People's Assembly; Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 60 in Kangso District, Nampo Municipality, for Chong Chan-ho, head of the standardized goods shop of the Kumsong general tractor works who is a candidate for the deputy to the Kangso District People's Assembly; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 148 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Kim Song-tok, a driver of the Korean Central Post Office who is a candidate for the deputy to the Central District People's Assembly; Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at constituency No. 138 in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, for Na Mun-kyong, a worker of the University of International Affaires who is a candidate for the deputy to the Taedonggang District People's Assembly; Kim Yun-hyok, vice-premier of the Administration Council, at subconstituency No. 18 of constituency No. 106 in Nakrang District, Pyongyang, for Yang Chang-yop, chief of the Nakrang District Welfare Service Office who is a candidate for the deputy to the Nakrang District People's Assembly; Kim Hwan, vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 110 in Central District, Pyongyang, for Yi Sun-mu, a worker of the Central Heating-System Construction Company who is a candidate for the deputy to the Central District People's Assembly; Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council, at constituency No. 16 in Sangwon County, Pyongyang, for Pak Tok-chon, deputy chief engineer in charge of production of the Sangwon cement complex who is a candidate for the deputy to the Sangwon County People's Assembly; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, at constituency No. 139 in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, for Song Chol-yong, head of a workteam of the University of National Economy who is a candidate for the deputy to the Taedonggang District People's Assembly; and Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, at constituency No. 100 in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, for Yi Sok-ho, a worker of the Pyongyang University of Music and Dance who is a candidate for the deputy to the Taedonggang District People's Assembly.

The elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies held amid high political enthusiasm of the entire people mark an important occasion in powerfully demonstrating the political and ideological unity of the Korean people rallied behind the party and the leader in one mind and the might of the socialist system of Korean style for the popular masses and consolidating the people's power as firm as a rock.

Editorials Review People's Assembly Elections

SK2411090391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—Elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies are held today.

Papers here run editorials on this occasion.

NODONG SINMUN says that the nominated candidates are true representatives of broad segments of workers, peasants and working intellectuals and that the elections are an important occasion in powerfully demonstrating the superiority and invincibility of socialism of our style centred on the masses of the people.

Noting that the might and vitality of our socialism which embodies the chuche idea is growing still further with each passing day, it points out that the elections at a time when the imperialists' anti-socialist moves have been intensified as never before will clearly show once again how false and deceptive their sophism is.

The elections are an important political work that demonstrates the strength of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, the paper notes, and stresses:

Through the elections, our people will fully show their deepest trust in the party and the leader and unquestioned support for the people's power and their grand traits of great unity and cohesion.

MINJU CHOSON says our people's power is a chuche-type power which was chosen and established by ourselves and is run by ourselves in conformity with the conditions of our country, proceeding from the demand of our revolution and the desire of the working masses. It calls for further strengthening this revolutionary power of the workers and the peasants.

City, County Elections See 100 Percent Turnout

SK2411081691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—Elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies are now under way in all the constituencies and sub-constituencies across the country on November 24 amid a high degree of political awareness and revolutionary ardor of the entire electors according to the regulations of elections of deputies to the People's Assemblies at all levels of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The voters in all parts of the country are taking part in the elections with high revolutionary enthusiasm to powerfully demonstrate the invincible might of our people united around the party and the leader in one mind and the advantages of the socialist system of Korean style for the popular masses and further consolidate the people's power.

According to data available, the entire electors registered on the voters' lists cast their ballots as of 2 p.m. today, except those staying in foreign countries or engaged in pelagic fishing. Those electors who could not go to the polls due to old age or illness and for other reasons cast their ballots into travelling boxes.

KCNA Reviews 23 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2311054591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (kcna)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article telling that the great leader President Kim Il-song advanced a unique line of people's power building and wisely directed the struggle for its implementation.

MINJU CHOSON recalls that President Kim Il-song smashed the national separatist moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the glorious fatherland of our people, after the liberation of the country.

Prof. Birinder Kumar Sabarwal of Delhi University of India said President Kim Il-song is the great leader who devotes his all to the people, reports NODONG SINMUN.

The daily dedicates an article to the fifth anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Step up the Three-revolution Red Flag Movement," a work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It comes out with an editorial titled "officials, be true servants of people, following example of Comrade Chong Chon-sil".

Twice labor heroine Chong Chun-sil, director of the Chunchon county commercial management office, Chagang Province, has made enormous achievements in commercial service and greatly contributed to improving the living of the country people with intense loyalty to the party and the leader and in the spirit of devoted service for the people.

Appearing in the press is a joint statement of the political parties and public organizations of the DPRK denouncing the "wartime support agreement" signed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article titled "Our System of Socialist Cultural Life Is Superior System Which Meets People's Cultural Demand".

According to the press, the Korean Reunification Development Bank was established in Pyongyang.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON brands the "wartime support agreement" as an aggressive document for perfecting the new war mobilization posture.

The press informs the readers that the South Korean puppets committed a grave military provocation by introducing a tank and a gun into the demilitarized zone and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have continued military manoeuvres against the North on the ground and sea and in the sky.

It is reported in the press that the South Korean newspaper CHOSUN ILBO said the United States has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea from before 1961, military supplies worth more than 1.6 billion dollars were brought into South Korea from the United States last year and students in Taegu attacked the "American cultural centre".

NODONG SINMUN carries an article exposing the power scramble within the South Korean ruling "Democratic Liberal Party".

In a commentary the daily condemns the brigandish acts committed by seamen belonging to the U.S. Seventh Fleet staying at Pusan port, South Korea.

A solidarity movement supporting Korean reunification is going on worldwide, says the daily.

Conveyed in the press are foreign public voices calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and the destruction of the concrete wall built in the area south of the military demarcation line.

NODONG SINMUN reports that a symposium on Japan's postwar responsibility was held, the Indian prime minister voiced support for the Palestinian people's struggle and the Zimbabwean president called for continuous sanctions against South Africa.

The daily introduces a travelogue on Korea "demarcation line cutting through houses" carried in the Moldavian newspaper MOLDAVIA SUBERANA.

It runs an article exposing the reactionary nature of the capitalist election system.

KCNA Reviews 25 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2511061891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song voted at constituency No. 22 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, for the election of deputies to the city and county people's assemblies.

Papers carry a report that the entire electors registered on the voters' lists participated in the elections to the city and county people's assemblies as of 2 p.m. November 24, and inform the readers that party and state cadres, together with voters in all parts of the country and compatriots overseas staying in the socialist homeland, participated in the elections and foreign guests in Pyongyang visited polling stations in the city.

NODONG SINMUN conveys words of South Korean people longing for the northern half of Korea under the title "We Want To Be Under the Administration of General Kim Il-song".

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated abroad, says the paper. A documentary film "China Visit of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song" is showing at organizations of all levels of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), reports the daily.

It carries an article about the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, in North Hamgyong Province in November 1945 after the liberation.

Econews of the press includes reports that a project for the replacement of machines with largesized and modern ones has been completed at the Hungnam fertilizer complex and that the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex is increasing the production of steel and iron.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the premier of Cote d' Ivoire met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The paper carries the open questionaire of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued on November 24 regarding the South Korean chief executive's "declaration of denuclearization".

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged joint aerial war exercises against the North and committed an aerial espionage and gunfiring, according to the press.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN ridicules the No Tae-u group's disgraceful "excessive service" for the U.S. side's delegates who came in Seoul to participate in the 23rd U.S.-South Korean "annual security consultative meeting".

According to the daily, a Chinese newspaper and radio reported the joint statement of the political parties and public organizations of the DPRK denouncing the signing of the "wartime support agreement" between the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, and the Asian regional institute of the chuche idea issued a statement demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that "Youth March" is sung all over the campuses.

It is reported in the press that speeches were made by heads of delegations and delegates of different countries including the DPRK at the seventh ministerial conference of the G-77 and Japanese women demanded an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

The press reports that chairman of the African National Congress of South Africa Nelson Mandela called for continued sanctions against South Africa, the 46th U.N. General Assembly session appealed to the international community to fight against all manner of racism and the world public denounced Israel's moves for territorial expansion.

NODONG SINMUN introduces agricultural development in China and Cuba.

An article of the paper exposes that NATO is putting spurs on the preparations of aggression and war behind the curtain of "disarmament" and "detente".

South Korea

Editorials View U.S.-ROK Security Meeting

'Hard-Line' Communique Noted

SK2411100191 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "ROK-U.S. Security Meeting Ended in 'Hard-Line Resolution'"]

[Text] As expected, the ROK-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] ended with a hard-line pledge to cope jointly with the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons development. The degree of toughness of the resolution was fully reflected in the joint communique which summarized the results of discussions. With the exception of sharing defense expenditures, enhancing capabilities of sustaining joint operations and reciprocal development of logistics, defense industry, and system of technological cooperation, which have been discussed every year, the need for alertness, countermeasures, and restraint against "uncertainty" caused by North Korea, including threat of nuclear development, constitute most parts of the joint communique. This proves that the ROK and the United States regard North Korea's threat as a serious. There is also an impression that they seek to demonstrate clearly their hard-line resolution to cope with the threat concretely.

One should, above all, pay attention to the fact that they linked North Korea's nuclear development with the reduction of U.S. troops in South Korea. In the joint communique, they revealed that they postponed the existing plan for reducing the U.S. forces in South Korea "until the threat of North Korea's nuclear development and uncertainty are removed and the security in this region is completely ensured." Although withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea requires "close cooperation" between the ROK and the United States, it appears that the ROK's role in establishing and implementing this issue is not great in view of various factors on the U.S. side which made the reduction of troops inevitable.

The current agreement to postpone the second phase of reduction has some flexibility in readjusting the plan based on "careful evaluation of security environment." In addition, this agreement will not affect the implementation of the first phase of reduction which will continue until next year. Thus, the agreement "surprises" the people to a certain degree. Despite this, one is still under the impression that the agreement demonstrates a hard-line resolution. The United States recently emphatically pointed to "the theory on North Korea's greatest nuclear threat." In addition, the United States defined North Korea's nuclear development as a serious threat to the security in Northeast Asia. Thus, the U.S. announcement on postponing the second phase of withdrawal of U.S. troops in South Korea in order to check such a threat will clearly and undoubtedly put considerable psychological pressure on North Korea.

What attracts the people's attention in the joint communique is the expression of hope that the "new nuclear policy" declared by the U.S. President in late September on withdrawal and reduction of tactical nuclear weapons would develop into the building of trust and relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

People presumed that the withdrawal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, as well as the timetable for the withdrawal, would be discussed broadly during the meeting. However, no one imagined that these issues would be mentioned in the joint communique. We should not overlook the significance of this, indirectly expressed in this communique. The international trend toward detente, disarmament, and peace brought about the change in the U.S. policy, including the declaration of reduction of tactical nuclear weapons, developed into withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons and U.S. troops from South Korea. This notwithstanding, the joint communique acutely emphasized the need to increase the conventional restraint forces against North Korea. The lesson from the Gulf war, which was obviously discussed as another warning to North Korea, makes one presume that the ROK and the United States would increase mutual operational capabilities of the two armies by deploying ultramodern weapons in advance and that the ROK armed forces would accelerate the reinforcement of so-called "offensive mobilization fighting power."

After discussing the security issue with the United States, our government expressed a firm resolution against North Korea's nuclear development. We hope our government was not negligent in discussing the issue of withdrawal of the U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, which is being inevitably linked with North Korea's nuclear development. The main point of further discussions should be prompt completion of withdrawal. The time of withdrawal should be expedited to the maximum, and nonexistence of nuclear weapons must be declared. When necessary, our government should negotiate the method of mutual inspections with North Korea. Since our government declared the policy for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula first, it should not turn over the resolution of the issue of North Korea's nuclear development to other countries.

Signals North To Stop Nuclear Plan

SK2311005191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Nov 91 p 3

["News analysis" by staff reporter Yi Song-yol]

[Text] The decision to shelve further U.S. troop reductions in South Korea demonstrated the firm determination of Seoul and Washington to prevent North Korea's development of nuclear arms, though the decision may be more symbolic than real.

Instead of taking military action against Pyongyang's nuclear program, top defense and military officials of the two countries, meeting at the 23rd Security Consultative

Meeting (SCM) in Seoul, chose to make all available diplomatic efforts to convince Pyongyang to drop its nuclear weapons program.

At the same time, both sides agreed to maintain a certain level of U.S. troops in South Korea as a demonstration of their firm determination to block the North Korean nuclear project.

The announcement of the postponement of the U.S. troop reduction plan, though far from any active military action, will certainly put psychological pressure on North Korea as well as providing a message reminding them of the lessons of the Gulf war.

It was not known what kinds of practical military sanctions the two sides talked about during the SCM, but Defense Minister Yi and U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said they would give priority to multilateral diplomatic efforts against Pyongyang's top secret project.

Minister Yi said after the SCM that he and Cheney "did not talk about forceful military actions because they might encroach upon such multilateral diplomatic efforts."

Instead, he said both sides agreed to strengthen diplomacy at the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) against North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.

Sources at the Defense Ministry said that Seoul and Washington hope and believe to some extent that multilateral military action would not be necessary and that international diplomatic pressure could lead Pyongyang to drop its nuclear program.

North Korea is expected to start producing nuclear weapons in two or three years, but Yi had said he opposed any tough military countermeasure, "which may lead to a war on the peninsula."

South Korean officials had first suggested postponement of the U.S. troop reduction plan, which the U.S. side accepted, sources said.

That would be an economical and peaceful backing for ongoing diplomatic efforts against Pyongyang's nuclear plan, they viewed.

At a press conference Thursday to wrap up the SCM, Cheney strongly denounced North Korea, sending a messge that the United States will not remain idle if Pyongyang goes ahead with its nuclear program.

"Pyongyang's refusal to shed light on its nuclear developments has generated concern worldwide. North Korea has a 40-year history of aggression, terrorism, and irresponsible weapons sales.

"These factors make the prospect of a North Korea with nuclear weapons—particularly with a missile delivery system—the most serious threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and indeed in East Asia," Cheney warned.

The announced postponement of the troop reduction plan does not affect the ongoing first-phase cutback of 7,000 U.S. noncombatants by early 1993. It will postpone, or scrap, phase-two of the withdrawal of 6,000 to 7,000 combatants between 1993 and 1995.

Sources said the postponement would run counter to the so-called Nunn-Warner Report which stipulates the East Asia Strategy Initiative, or reduction of U.S. military presence in the region.

By maintianing its troops in South Korea at the current level, the United States has paved the way for retaining its military influence in the region, the sources said.

To the United States, South Korea is very important strategically, and it may need to maintain its forces in South Korea at the current level, they viewed.

Though Yi and Cheney did not say, the two sides also discussed the schedule for withdrawal of the U.S. tactical nuclear missiles, probably before early next January when U.S. President George Bush is scheduled to visit Seoul, the sources said.

To strengthen the defense posture against the North Korean potential threat of chemical weapons and Scud missiles, Cheney stated that he approved a package to improve the conventional defense of the South, including accelerated deployment of active U.S. forces in contingency, prepositioning modern munitions and continued emphasis on interoperability of South Korean and U.S. forces.

According to unconfirmed reports, Washington has agreed to deploy the Patriot defense missile system here early next year.

The virtual scrapping of the U.S. troop reduction plan and improvement of conventional defense of the South may cost Seoul more in sharing the defense burden.

During the SCM, the two sides agreed that Seoul will gradually increase its share of the burden of defense to the burden of defense to the level of one-third of the "won-based costs" of stationing U.S. forces in Korea by 1995.

This year, the won-based costs out of the total $2.62 billion sum of stationing U.S. forces here is about $840 million, and South Korea is expected to increase its contribution from $150 million this year and $180 million next year to about $180 million next year to about $300 million in 1995.

U.S. Presence Felt 'Stronger Than Ever'

SK2411032091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Nov 91 p 2

["News in Review" by political editor Chong Un-pung: "Koreans Begin To Feel U.S. Presence Strongly"]

[Text] The American presence here is being felt stronger than ever before.

James Baker and Carla Hills were here for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting. On the heels of the meeting, Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell were here just last week for the annual Security Consultative Meeting [SCM].

Throughout the meetings, the prevailing concern was North Korea's dreadful program of arming itself with nuclear weapons.

South Korea and the United States are in agreement to stop the nuclear arms project of North Korea by all means including diplomatic and economic sanctions.

On top of these, the military option has been offered as a sure and most effective means to stop the bombmaking project.

The hawkish position is being circulated in the U.S. Congress. In a Congressional hearing chaired by Stephen Solarz, former assistant secretary of defense Richard Perle favored the military option.

Of course, there are voices opposing the military action arguing that it should be the last means. All the diplomatic and economic sanctions should be mobilized to rein in the recalcitrant North Korea, which is noted for unpredictable adventurism.

For example, North Korea carried out a barbaric terrorist act against former president Chon Tu-hwan when he visited Rangoon in 1983. As many as 16 people, including four Cabinet members, perished in the bomb attack. Chon escaped the fatal bombing as the bomb went off before his arrival at the Aung San Mausoleum.

As late as 1987, North Korea blew up a KAL flight, killing all of the 115 people on board.

After the SCM meeting in Seoul, Cheney flew to Japan where he warned of the possibility of military action if North Korea does not heed the international call for the scrapping of the bomb project.

The remarks came from no other than the very person who drew up the Gulf war strategy and carried it out successfully. This is serious enough to worry the Korean people since they have experienced the excruciating pains of the internecine Korean war.

With the fall of communism, the cold war structure has given way to the rise of a new world order.

There has been a lot of talk about the new order. But it was nowhere in sight until the smashing victory of the U.S.-led coalition force against Iraq.

Though what the new world order in place of the cold war structure is like is still elusive. But what is certain is that it is led by the United States, whatever name it may deserve. "Pax Americana" or "Pax Consortia."

The United States, which overnight became the sole world superpower, is now growling even at a small African country, Libya, holding it responsible for the destruction of a Pan Am flight three years ago.

But world attention is being drawn to North Korea for making the doomsday bomb. The United States has to grapple with the problem.

Given its past behavioral records, it would be serious for the future of both South and North Korea, if North Korea acquires nuclear capability.

Amidst the calls for sanctions against North Korea, North Korea hinted that it would behave itself, accepting international inspection of its "nuclear facilities" if the same is done on the "nuclear weapons sites" in the South.

We do not know if North Korea deliberately used the different terms, "nuclear facilities" and "nuclear weapons" on purpose.

Despite the voices opting for military actions, including a surgical air strike against the nuclear facilities, the United States is inclined to apply all diplomatic sanctions to pressure North Korea into dropping the weapons program.

This is why people expect much from the visit of President George Bush slated for January next year. Bush's planned visit to Seoul will be the last in a series of diplomatic steps before launching a tough move against North Korea.

If Bush's diplomacy fails, it is scary to think what would come next. If the United States made a decision, South Korea can in no way turn the decision around.

In a recent NATO meeting in Rome, Bush said in undiplomatic terms, according to Newsweek magazine, "If your ultimate aim is to independently provide for your own self-defense, the time to tell us is now."

The North Korean leaders should bear this in mind. The world situation is now different from what it used to be. The United States is a real superpower. But it can't feel comfortable even without a rival.

Accord Seen as Too Favorable to U.S.

SK2311020391 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 21 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "'The Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement' Is Stacked Too Heavily Toward U.S. Interests"]

[Text] It has long been questioned whether the "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" which is going to be signed at the annual ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting is necessary, expecially now. Last spring when the United States impatiently pressed our government to conclude it, and last summer when the two countries' defense authorities signed its provisional agreement, people repeatedly objected to this bilateral agreement's substance, as well as making an issue of the government's motive for pushing ahead with it.

There seem to be two sets of objections to the agreement.

The first is a strong desire to pursue peace and achieve national independence. No doubt the government too pursues stability on the Korean peninsula and in the international community. Moreover, we find it hard to understand why the government goes out of its way to sign an agreement unifying and turning the diverse forms of military assistance into a wartime support system at a time when the authorities of the South and North, with their continued political and military confrontation, are groping toward fashioning a basic framework for peaceful and stable South-North relations.

The second is a concern that given the extreme inequality that has governed the structure of the ROK-U.S. military relations based on the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty and because of its comprehensive nature, the "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" is not only excessively favorable to U.S. interests but also runs the risk of helping the United States manipulate the ROK in implementing and interpreting the agreement.

It is from a desire to satisfactorily deploy the rapid deployment forces by building a military support system in strategically important spots where feuds are expected to develop that the United States has for many years called for the agreement to be signed.

According to expert analysis, the military support system, whose satisfactory operation is guaranteed by tests and exercises, can be easily used for settling feuds in other regions, not only during war but also in peace.

The attitude the government adopted toward this agreement is graphically demonstrated in the negotiating over the reinforcement of U.S. troops in an emergency. The government has always been uneasy about a clause in the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty concerning the reinforcement of U.S. troops in an emergency. It stipulates that U.S. troops can be reinforced in the ROK on condition that it conforms with the "constitutional procedures." This time, however, the government has been successful in extracting an agreement from the United States on changing the wording to "offering of reinforcement can be planned according to the Combined Forces Command Operation Plan No. 5027," an improvement over the old clause. In exchange for this, the United States seems to have secured inside the ROK a "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" on far more favorable conditions than expected by taking advantage of the ROK's uneasiness. Commenting on such an outcome, the government will claim that it has strengthened the cooperation between the two countries even more, as part of preparations for a "crisis, hostilities, and war-like situation" between the South and North. Nevertheless, the government will have to ponder whether the cooperation our country will have to offer in exchange for a visible plan to support U.S. reinforcement in the ROK in an emergency, which is vague and hard to define when and under what circumstances, is worth developing.

Moreover, a great many domestic facilities and much manpower will be needed to support the military exercises needed to test the satisfactory operation of the support system not only during war but also in peace. Thus, it is natural and necessary for the government to make public its contents and go through the trouble of reflecting public opinion about the agreement before signing it, not just to deal with the "Joint Committee for Realizing a Nuclear-Free Korean Peninsula and Its Disarmament and To Frustrate and Check the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement."

U.S. Press Debates on Nuclear Issue Criticized

SK2411062191 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 23 Nov 91 p 2

[Article by Berlin-based correspondent Kang Pyong-tae in the "Reporter's Eye" column: "Distortion by U.S. Press"]

[Text] The way the U.S. press discusses the possibility of using military actions, including bombing North Korea's nuclear facilities, is really a high-handed way of reporting. An idea about such military actions, which totally lacks a regard for the welfare of the Korean people who are likely to become the victims of such bombings, calls into question whether the U.S. press' concern about North Korea's possible nuclear development is really for the Korean people or not.

For the U.S. press, the press of an ally, to debate on the use of military actions to eliminate a nuclear threat, which is, in a sense, still nonexistent and which runs the risk of endangering the Korean people, is not appropriate at all. No matter how eagerly the Korean society may be inclined to heed U.S. opinion, few Korean people will find the possibility of bombing the North Korean nuclear facilities acceptable.

We may as well view U.S. debates on the possible use of military actions as a way of putting pressure on North Korea. But before doing so, we had better remember the lesson we learned in the past.

Journalism academicians consider the attitude that the U.S. press had adopted toward the shooting down of a Korean Air passenger plane by the Soviets in 1983 to be a model of distorted treatment of facts influenced by the cold war mentality and tailored to suit the government's propaganda warfare.

Setting aside what has not yet been determined, U.S. military intelligence officers who closely watched the shooting down of the Korean civilian passenger plane from start to finish concluded in their testimony that the Soviets had not known that it was a civilian aircraft until the last moment, regardless of whether they mistook it for a U.S. spy plane or not.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration, suppressing objections raised by intelligence officers, capitalized on this to paint the Soviet Union as an evil empire. The U.S. press, ignoring facts that were unearthed even in the face of the U.S. Administration's coverup attempt, took the lead in the administration's propaganda offensive. Later, the U.S. press kept its mouth shut when the Reagan administration officials testified before Congress that the shooting down of the Korean Air passenger plane was a genuine mistake by the Soviets.

We were the true victims of the U.S. anti-Soviet campaign as such. So enthusiastic was our society in denouncing the Soviet Union that we overlooked the fact that the U.S. anti-Soviet campaign made the unveiling of the true picture harder. This unjustly helped to delay the improvement in relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union. There can be no denying that the Soviet Union should be held accountable for the incident. However, the U.S. "effort to paint the Soviets as villains" helped us become, ultimately, double victims.

The heart of the problem is that the Korean society is negligent in checking the U.S. press to see if it is truthful in reporting. We should look at ourselves to see whether even at this moment our society and press are not helping to conjure up a crisis-like phase instead of scrutinizing the reports on North Korea's nuclear issue in the U.S. press in cool-headed manner to see whether they are true or not.

To the United States, the bombing of North Korea may mean the same as the bombing of Iraq, but to us, it is beyond any comparison.

Seoul, Beijing To Boost Trade Offices' Functions

SK2511022291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China, in a bid to improve their relations, have decided to strengthen the diplomatic function of their trade office in each other's capital from the end of November.

As a result, Foreign Ministry sources said, the trade offices will be upgraded to a virtual diplomatic channel between the two countries in the absence of formal ties. They will help regularize, among other things, contacts between diplomats from both sides, they said.

Foreign Ministers Yi Sang-ok of Korea and Qian Qichen have agreed to boost relations of their countries when the Chinese top diplomat visited Seoul earlier this month to attend the ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Kim Sok-u, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, plans to meet with Xu Dayou, head of the Chinese trade representative office in Seoul, on Nov. 27 or 28, to exchange views on pending issues including a bilateral trade agreement, the sources said.

Earlier, Korean trade representative in Beijing, Amb. No Chae- won, held official meetings with Qian in the Chinese capital Nov. 12 and 14 for the first time since he opened his office in Beijing last January.

One Korean Foreign Ministry official who declined to be identified by name, said that Xu's visit to the Foreign Ministry could be interpreted to mean that the trade offices of the two countries are being upgraded to an official channel.

No Tae-u Invites Japan's Miyazawa To Visit

SK2211082191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0733 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u has invited Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit Seoul at the earliest possible date in a letter delivered Friday by his personal envoy, former Ambassador to Japan Yi Won-kyong.

No said in his letter that the need to strengthen friendship and cooperation was growing for the two countries to contribute to the world's prosperity and that he hoped to exchange opinions on ways of enhancing such relations with Miyazawa in Seoul.

Upon reading the letter, Miyazawa said he wanted to exchange views with No and would schedule a visit to Seoul at an early date.

Touching on normalization negotiations between Japan and North Korea, the prime minister said his government deemed it crucial that Pyongyang allow inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He said North Korea had lost the excuse to reject inspection with the U.S. decision to remove tactical nuclear weapons from the South.

Earlier reports had said Miyazawa would make his first overseas trip as prime minister to Seoul.

No Tae-u Views Reunification, Other Issues

SK2511101391 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 22 Nov 91 pp 3, 4

[Interview with ROK President No Tae-u by SEOUL SINMUN editor-in-chief So Kon-il on 21 November at the presidential mansion in Seoul, on the 46th anniversary of SEOUL SINMUN's founding]

[Excerpt] [So Kon-il] In view of the situation on the Korean peninsula and North Korea's signs of change, reunification appears not just a hope but is becoming a reality.

You have said that reunification would be achieved this century. How do you think reunification will be achieved?

What do you think is the most grave obstacle to reunification?

[No Tae-u] The situation on the Korean peninsula is at an important turning point. The cold war has ended outside the Korean peninsula.

Because the cold war, which divided the world, has collapsed and because our northern policy has made progress, the Soviet Union and East European countries have become countries that promote friendship and cooperation with us. Exchange and cooperation have been expanded daily even with China, our neighboring country.

The cold war brought us not only the pains of division but also perpetuated that division. The collapse of the cold war will inevitably result in an end to the division.

The problem is when and how North Korea will change.

The communist system has crumbled in the Soviet Union and all the East European countries. China has accelerated its opening up. Under these circumstances, North Korea will not be able to maintain its ultra-isolationist policy. North Korea entered the United Nations with us after changing its strong opposition. This proves that North Korea has already started to change. Because of its economic difficulties, North Korea's isolationist system has reached its limits.

We want to promote exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea. For North and South Korea to coexist and be prosperous based upon mutual trust is a middle goal on their way to peaceful reunification.

If the fellow countrymen of North and South Korea visit each other and promote cooperation for each's development, the process of reunification will be accelerated, in view of the Korean people's capacity for united action.

What blocks this reunification process, which is based upon principle, is the lack of realism in the North Korean system. It has not changed its isolationist policy and its strategy of communizing the South. It also has refused to fulfill its international obligation in connection with its nuclear weapons development program. This has aroused worldwide concern and worry.

I consider this to be the last throes before change. I think that if North Korea's hardened system starts changing, this change will take place rapidly.

The division on the Korean peninsula will not continue into the next century, and a decisive turning point in reunification will come earlier than everyone predicts.

[So] What appears prevalent at home and abroad is the prediction that the North and South, rather than achieving peaceful reunification by promoting mutual relations, will have the opportunity to achieve reunification in the aftermath of the abrupt collapse of North Korea's communist system, like in East Europe. What do you think of this?

[No] No one can easily tell how North Korea's hardened system will change. It depends on North Korea's ability to flexibly and efficiently respond to the situation in its vicinity and in the world and how it will solve its internal problems.

We hope that North Korea will solve its own pending problems and achieve development.

We expect that based upon this, North Korea will improve relations with us and promote national reconciliation.

We want North Korea's change. Still, we hope that such a change will be gradual and orderly. We do not want a situation in which an internal disorder will take place in North Korea and in which this will explode into an insoluble, radical change.

Such a development will cause misfortune to the fellow countrymen in North Korea and court an unexpected danger on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has been worried about the possibility that we want a German-style reunification through absorption. However, we are not pursuing such a reunification.

[So] As a solution to the Korean peninsula problem, U.S. Secretary of State Baker recently advanced a 2 + 4 formula, that is, talks among North and South Korea, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan. As the ROK opposed it, he retracted it. Why did we oppose it?

[No] The Korean peninsula problem must be solved independently by the parties concerned on the Korean peninsula. If the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan—our neighboring powers—participate in the solution to the North-South problem, this runs counter to national independence and is not desirable for the future of the reunified Korea. We have the will and capability to independently solve our national problems. Achieving reunification of the Korean peninsula based upon the principles of independence, peace, and democracy is the spirit of the era and the call of history.

A 2 + 4 formula was applied in solving the German problem. However, the situation on the Korean peninsula is fundamentally different from the German situation. Germany, as a loser in World War II, is obligated to accept intervention by the four powers in handling the post-war problems. However, ours is very different from the German situation.

The United States made it clear that it had considered the six-way talks as a way to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, not as a way to solve the Korean peninsula problem or achieve reunification. That is, the United States thinks it necessary for the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and all the other countries to exercise their influence to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. The ROK and the United States have reached a complete consensus of views on this.

[So] You proposed a "Northeast Asian peace consultative meeting" during your speech at the United Nations in October 1988. What is the difference between this formula and what U.S. Secretary of State Baker calls the six-way talks?

[No] The Northeast Asian peace consultative meeting, which I proposed, is intended not only to discuss the Korean peninsula problem but also various problems comprehensively to establish the order of peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia, where the cold war confrontation has been prevailing.

[So] You said that the fifth North-South high-level talks, scheduled to be held in Seoul, must provide an opportunity to make a fresh start in the reunification process. Some people say that our side must assume a more flexible attitude in the talks to bring a tangible agreement. What are the prospects for the Seoul talks and our side's position on them?

[No] During the fourth high-level talks in Pyongyang, the North and South agreed to draft the "letter of agreement on North- South reconciliation, nonaggression, exchange, and cooperation."

The North and South have been discussing details in working-level talks in Panmunjom. Our side will do its best to ensure that such important clauses as practical nonaggression, exchange, and cooperation between the North and South be made clear in the letter of agreement and that such a letter of agreement be implemented.

We have assumed a flexible attitude to ensure that a letter of agreement be adopted during the fifth talks in Seoul that will contribute to improving North-South relations.

[So] North Korea opposes the "8 November denuclearization declaration," calls on the United States to withdraw its forces from South Korea, and calls us to free ourselves from the U.S. nuclear umbrella. What do you think of North Korea's proposal for establishing a "nuclear-free zone"? How will you implement your denuclearization declaration?

[No] The United States and the Soviet Union have been implementing their epochal proposals for abolishing or reducing their nuclear weapons. With the belief that nuclear weapons must be abolished on the Korean peninsula, I declared the denuclearization policy on 8 November. If, on the Korean peninsula, the North and South do not produce, possess, store, and deploy nuclear weapons, the danger of nuclear weapons will disappear from this region.

North Korea has demanded that the Korean peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free zone. However, this is neither realistic nor desirable.

[So] Despite our government's firm stand on not opening the rice market, opening the farm produce market, including rice, seems unavoidable in view of the progress of the Uruguay Round negotiation. People are worried that this will open the market more rapidly, leading to acceleration of excessive consumption with luxury goods overflowing in the market. Please tell us the measures you are considering to cope with the general opening of the local market.

[No] Opening the market is a responsibility our country must bear as the 12th largest trading nation in the world with the benefit of free trade. We have already opened our market to nearly all goods except some farm produce. The market opening has led to significant increase in imported goods in some areas, damaging some businesses.

Nevertheless, the market opening on the whole gave local industries new vitality in competition, facilitating readjustment of their structure and strengthening their constitution, which is a positive result.

The Uruguay Round negotiation, which is nearing its conclusion, should be settled for the future of the international economy, which is heading for protectionism and regional alignment.

This is all the more desirable for us who depend on foreign trade. The government is doing its best to reflect our position to the maximum degree, more in the area of farm produce than other areas.

Also, to prepare for the settlement of the Uruguay Round, which is leading to our further opening of the farm produce market, the government is pushing ahead with measures so that our agriculture can cope. The government has pushed ahead with the opening of many areas, taking into full consideration the local industry's ability to cope, and we will continue to do so. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on Stopping North Nuclear Program

SK2411030591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chong Won-sik has said that Korea would seek "all multifaceted" ways for cooperation with surrounding powers to deter North Korea form developing nuclear weapons.

In an interview with the Nikei Shimbun, a Japanese daily, he said, "Korea will stop North Korea's nuclear development program by all means by charting out all multifaceted plans in cooperation with the countries deeply interested in the Korean situation."

Billing the North's nuclear program as a "serious threat to the peace of Northeast Asia," he strongly suggested that the South might agree to forceful inspections of the North's nuclear installations under a United Nations resolution if it remains reluctant to sign a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"I think it is natural for the U.N. Security Council to discuss the issue concerning forceful examination of North Korea's nuclear facilities," he was quoted as saying.

Foreign Minister on APEC, Nuclear Issues

SK2511042691 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23 Nov 91 p 5

["Exclusive interview" with ROK Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok by reporter Pak Chong-hyon on 22 November; place not given—first two paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] "The statement on the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations adopted at the third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] conference, which is similar in substance to last year's statement, is not so much a manifestation of each member state's position on each area of negotiations as much as a confirmation of their political will to conclude the negotiations successfully."

Saying the above in an exclusive interview with SEOUL SINMUN on 22 November, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, who presided over the third APEC conference, said: Some described the just-concluded APEC conference as being nothing more than a UR propaganda stage and as a festival for others, not for the Koreans. However, I think that such a criticism stems from misunderstanding about APEC's nature and objectives. Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok also stressed that during the APEC conference, he had explained to the delegates from such major parties of the UR negotiations as the United States and Australia the difficulties our country faces in the UR negotiations. He met them in individual meetings and tried to have our position reflected in the negotiations' outcome.

[Pak Chong-hyon] What successes do you think you have accomplished in the Seoul APEC?

[Yi Sang-ok] First of all, I can cite the APEC declaration, which has charted a course for APEC to follow and has fashioned the mechanism for enabling it to evolve into a central stage of cooperation within the region. Also, we have succeeded in having China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong admitted into APEC through our behind-the-scenes diplomatic effort. Furthermore, we have built a firm diplomatic foundation by hosting the APEC conference in Seoul.

[Pak] Do you contemplate something else to deter North Korea's nuclear development in addition to diplomatic pressure?

[Yi] Some insist that we should resort to military action against North Korea to have it drop the nuclear development project if in the worst case it adamantly refuses nuclear inspection. Nonetheless, we have never given thoughts to any kind of military measures. We will keep making political and diplomatic efforts in the future.

[Pak] When do you think our government will be able to establish diplomatic relations with Cambodia and Vietnam?

[Yi] The signing of the Cambodia peace treaty in Paris on 23 October has eliminated any obstacles to normalizing diplomatic relations between the ROK and Vietnam. I believe that the two countries' officials concerned could start discussing issues in detail on establishing diplomatic relations in the near future.

[Pak] Does the government have any specific plan for helping far more Korean people land jobs in the United Nations?

[Yi] Because the roles such international organizations as the United Nations play in the new international order keep soaring, our government plans to actively help Koreans make inroads into the world body. Because international organizations have their own way of hiring and supplying employees, success in sending many more Koreans to the United Nations directly depends on how many qualified people with language capabilities and expertise our country has at its disposal. The government will develop a necessary institution for training specialists to be sent to international organizations for personnel management.

[Pak] Does the government plan to procure such high technology weapons as the Patriot missiles to supplement conventional weapons after U.S. President Bush's declaration on the removal of tactical nuclear weapons deployed abroad has been implemented on the Korean peninsula?

[Yi] The beefing up of conventional weapons will be according to a continued evaluation of the security situation. At the 23rd annual ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting, the two countries agreed to take effective measures to improve the fighting capabilities based on conventional weapons for upgrading the combined defense capabilities.

Administration Planning Major Cabinet Reshuffle

SK2511103391 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] The government plans a large-scale cabinet reshuffle, including the deputy prime minister and most of the ministers related to the economic area, sometime next week at the earliest, right after the National Assembly settles the new year's budget bill.

On 25 November, a high-ranking government source said that in preparation for the National Assembly's general elections slated for March of next year, nominations for candidates within the ruling party will be completed by 20 January 1992. Also, since the screening of candidates will start sometime in mid-December within the ruling party, and to allow ministers, deputy ministers, and presidential secretaries to prepare for the elections, there is a high possibility that the cabinet reshuffle may take place sometime next week.

This source predicts that this cabinet reshuffle will assume the character of a cabinet managing the elections, smoothly exercising the sovereign power of President No Tae-u's government, which is in its final stage. It will also strongly promote the government's policies and effectively manage the four main elections, including the general elections, local elections, and presidential elections. It is inevitable that the cabinet reshuffle will be on a large-scale because there is also a need to overcome the current economic crisis.

The government's inspection authorities and related agencies finished the primary investigation of 1,400 high-ranking officials, including figures who hold a position higher than vice minister and major figures of the ruling party, and finished preparing personnel- related materials within the government, thus examining issues related to nominating candidates for the general elections.

It is certain that Prime Minister Chong Won-sik will be retained, considering his ability in leading the cabinet and the North-South high-level talks, and because he assumed office as prime minister only last May. However, it is predicted that ministers in the economic field will be changed drastically.

The ministers who are being discussed for the reshuffle because they will run for or are expected to run in the general elections are Choe Kak-kyu, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board; Finance Minister Yi Yong-man; Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom; and Transportation Minister Yim In-taek. There is also interest in a possible switch in positions between Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Cho Kyong-sik and Construction Minister Yi Chin-sol.

There is discussion that the successor to Deputy Prime Minister Choe may be among Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs; Sa Kong-il; and former Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song. The successor to the finance minister may be So Yong-taek, chief of the Office of National Taxation.

If Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs is appointed as new deputy prime minister, So Yong-taek, chief of the Office of National Taxation, and Chong Yong-ui, former finance minister, are prospective candidates for his seat.

It is certain that Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on will run in Taegu for the general elections, and there are extensive rumors that Home Affairs Minister Yi Sang-yon, and Health and Social Affairs Minister An Pil-chun will run in the local constituencies in the general elections.

It is of interest whether Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku will be replaced. It has been learned that So Tong-kwon, director of the Agency for National Security Planning, will be retained. At one time there were rumors that he would run for a seat in the National Assembly.

Along with the cabinet reshuffle there is also interest in reorganization of the presidential secretaries. It is predicted that Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs, will move to another position, and that Choe Yong-chol, special assistant to the president for political affairs; Kim Hak-chun, chief assistant to the president for policy research; and Yim Chae-kil, chief of the general affairs department, will run in the national or local constituencies in the general elections.

North's Terms for Nuclear Inspections Rejected

SK2311062991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea is willing to hold arms reduction talks with North Korea and allow inter-Korean inspections of nuclear facilities on condition the North agrees to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, a senior government official said Saturday.

President No Tae-u declared a non-nuclear Korea initiative Nov. 8 and called on the North to match it by halting its nuclear weapons development program.

North Korea, in a message delivered to Seoul and Washington by a U.S. scholar, says it is prepared to receive international inspections on its nuclear installations as soon as South Korea and the United States are prepared to receive inspections of suspected nuclear weapons sites in the South. William Taylor, vice president for international security programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, was given the message during a week-long visit to Pyongyang last week.

The South Korean official, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the North Korean proposal was unacceptable as it contained a condition and was a ploy by Pyongyang to escape international pressure to halt its nuclear program.

Opening nuclear facilities to outside inspection was a requirement for a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and could never be linked to any condition, he said.

It is widely believed that the United States has tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea, but that the South has none of its own.

Signing a nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] was the first step toward building political and military confidence between the South and the North, he said.

"Since the IAEA does not require the North to abandon its nuclear reprocessing facilities, we may tackle this issue head-on in inter-Korean talks," he said.

There have been no contacts of any sort between the United States and North Korea dealing with Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The United States has made clear it will not contact the North unless Pyongyang stops trying to develop nuclear weapons, he said.

Signature Campaign Against Rice Opening Continues

SK2211021491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) will continue to collect signatures opposing the opening of the domestic rice market now under negotiations at the multilateral Uruguay Round trade talks in Geneva.

A spokesman said the federation collected 2.05 million signatures as of Thursday, double the 1 million goal for 10 days from Nov. 11.

He said the federation decided to continue the signature collection campaign in order to show the Korean people's determination to oppose the rice market opening to foreign countries.

Resuming the signature collection, the NACF appealed to the people to more actively participate in the campaign which will continue indefinitely.

The NACF called on the people to be alert against smaller opinions that the rice market may open to foreign products under pressure from the United States.

It is also reported that the Japanese government has conceded to the pressure to open the Japanese rice market in a recent development after U.S. Representative Carla Hills made a stopover in Japan last week.

GATT Working Paper on Rice Issue Rejected

SK2311055791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0410 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea sent its "regrets" Friday to Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), for a working paper in which he calls for "tariffication without exception."

Korean Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil and Assistant Economic Planning Minister Kim In-ho paid a call on Dunkel to tell Dunkel that Korea rejected his paper.

Dunkel submitted the working paper to eight major members of the GATT agricultural negotiating group Thursday—the United States, the European Community, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, and Argentina.

The paper will be subject to concrete discussions at a meeting of 35 nations in which Korea will participate.

Officials at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Japan and Canada had also protested against Dunkel's paper.

The document denies recognition of exception to tariffication, offers tariffication to take the place of all existing non-tariff measures, waivers and other safeguards in the GATT regulations, allows minimum market access for goods whose import is minimal, and bans government purchases of crops that guarantee a certain level of price.

If the paper is accepted, Korea will have to open its rice market by importing 3-5 percent of its consumption for a tariff of 5 percent.

EPB [Economic Planning Board] officials said the government would not stop trying to persuade negotiators in the Uruguay Round trade talks of the Korean situation up to the last minute.

Minister Reaffirms Stance on Rice Market Opening

SK2511112391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0901 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea will make strenuous efforts to exclude rice from agricultural market opening in the Uruguay Round negotiations to liberalize world trade, Kim In- ho, assistant economic planning minister, said Monday.

The particular situation of each member of the round should be taken into account to preserve an overall balance, he said on returning from a weekend visit to the headquarters of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva.

There was a 50-50 chance the working paper submitted by GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel would be adopted to wrap up the global trade negotiations by December, Kim said.

Dunkel handed his paper to eight major members of the GATT agricultural negotiating group Thursday, proposing "tariffication without exception" and abolition of trade restrictions recognized by GATT.

Kim said he explained Korea's opposition to rice market opening to Dunkel and representatives of major negotiating nations during his two-day visit to Geneva.

Dunkel said that no exception would be allowed in tariffication but non-trade concerns could be considered separately in the internal subsidy sector, he said.

Under tariffication, trade barriers are replaced by customs duties, which are progressively reduced.

Burma

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives in Rangoon

BK2111141491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and delegation arrived in Myanmar [Burma] by air this afternoon at the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister of the Union of Myanmar.

The Bangladesh foreign minister and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by responsible officials from the Foreign Ministry led by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and Bangladesh Ambassador Mr. Mustafa Farooq Muhammad and the Bangladesh Embassy officials.

Received by Saw Maung

BK2211142091 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received the Bangladesh delegation led by Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh foreign minister, at 0930 today at the Dagon House, the Ministry of Defense.

Present with SLORC Chairman Sr. Gen. Saw Maung were Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; U Soe Myint, Myanmar [Burmese] ambassador to Bangladesh; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

Present with the Bangladesh delegation was Mr. Mustafa Farooq Muhammad, senior Bangladesh envoy to Myanmar.

Meets Foreign, Trade Ministers

BK2211150991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The visiting Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, accompanied by Mr. Mustafa Farooq Muhammad, Bangladesh ambassador to Myanmar [Burma], called on Brigadier General Abel, minister for trade and for planning and finance, at 1400 today at the Ministry of Trade and held cordial and frank talks on bilateral economic and trade relations.

Present at the meeting were U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general of the Directorate of Trade; U Soe Myint, Myanmar ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh; U Min Aung, advisor to the Ministry of Planning and Finance; U Chit Swe, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Myanmar; U Win Kyi, managing director of the Myanmar Export and Import Enterprise; and responsible officials from the Trade Ministry.

The Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman called on Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at 1030 today at the Foreign Ministry Annex. The Bangladesh and Burmese delegations, led respectively by Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman and U Ohn Gyaw, held talks on international, regional, and bilateral affairs.

The Bangladesh delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 0830 this morning. In the evening Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw held a banquet in honor of the Bangladesh delegation at the People's Park Restaurant.

Meets Culture, Information Minister

BK2311141691 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The visiting Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, accompanied by Bangladesh Ambassador Mr. Mustafa Farooq Muhammad, called on Lieutenant General Phone Myint, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister for home and religious affairs and for culture and information at 1000 today at the Office of the Minister of Home and Religious Affairs.

Present at the meeting were Lieutenant Colonel Than Nyunt of the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs; U Soe Myint, Myanmar [Burmese] ambassador to Bangladesh; Maung Toe, deputy director of the People's Police Force; U Aung Shwe, deputy director general of the Department of General Administration; U Khin Maung Si, director of the Department of Immigration and Manpower; and U Ohn Maung, divisional head of the Home and Religious Affairs Ministry.

The Bangladesh minister and his delegation left Yangon [Rangoon] this evening by air. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Mr. Mustafa Farooq Muhammad, Bangladesh ambassador to Myamar; U Soe Myint, Myanmar ambassador to Bangladesh; and responsible officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Bangladesh Embassy.

The Bangladesh delegation visited the Union Pavilionl and the People's Park and paid their respect at the Tomb of King Zafir Shah this morning.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Deputy Premier Says Australian Relations 'Normal'

BK2511113091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1009 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Malacca, Nov 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will tell Australia if any action of that country has hurt the feelings of Malaysians, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Monday. The government would bring to the attention of the Australian leaders if it knew that Australia produced documentaries that put Malaysia in a bad light, he said.

He told reporters this when asked to comment on talk that a company in Australia would be producing a documentary on Malaysia, believed to be a negative portrayal of Malaysia as had happened not too long ago. Ghafar said relations between Malaysia and Australia were normal and the Australian trade minister would visit Malaysia in a few days.

Zimbabwe's Joshua Nkomo Arrives on Visit

BK2411095691 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Zimbabwe Second Vice President Dr. Joshua Nkomo has begun an eight-day visit to Malaysia. His arrival in Kuala Lumpur was delayed by three hours due to heavy fog this morning. Dr. Nkomo will attend a briefing by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department and the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia in Bangi tomorrow.

On Tuesday, he will visit the Malaysian Export Trade Center and later call on Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba.

Premier Mahathir Leaves For Caracas G-15 Summit

BK2411154491 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir left for Caracas, Venezuela tonight to attend the G-15 [Group of 15] summit 27-29 November. The prime minister was accompanied by his wife Datin Sri Dr. Siti Hasmah and several representatives from the private sector.

These representatives, from 14 local private companies, will participate in a meeting with representatives from the private sectors of other countries in an effort to encourage direct contacts between them and to boost South-South cooperation.

The prime minister will address the three-day summit as a representative of Asia. This signifies a recognition of his and Malaysia's roles in encouraging South-South cooperation. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir will also present progress reports on various projects adopted at the last inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Ghafar Baba and several cabinet ministers were present at the Subang International Airport to see off the prime minister and his entourage.

Official on 'Amicable' Border Dispute Solution

BK2111143491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1012 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will continue to pursue an amicable solution to the border disputes with its neighbours in a friendly manner to ensure peace in the region, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Thursday.

Its position as the only country in ASEAN which had common borders with all its partners in the grouping was a factor which gave rise to much of the problems, he added. We share borders with Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, and the Philippines. Any dispute that arises would be solved through closed discussions, he told reporters in southern Melaka state.

Ghafar said the claim by Indonesia to the islands of Ligitan and Sipadan, off Sabah, and that of Singapore to Batu Putih island, off Johor, had yet to be sorted out. We need not hold an international forum or blow up this matter. Malaysia wants to have direct discussions on this in a friendly manner, he added.

Commenting on a Singapore statement that Batu Putih island had been in the possession of the republic for 150 years, Ghafar said Malaysia had also issued its statement on ownership of the island. Nevertheless, Malaysia would try to solve the problem through bilateral talks, he added.

Deputy Home Minister on Refugee Resettlement

BK2311072391 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0701 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia will strive to resettle all 18,000 Vietnamese refugees housed at its Sungai Besi transit camp here in third countries or send them back to Vietnam as soon as possible. Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob said third countries should not select only refugees with professional education but also the less educated ones. "They cannot be left here just like that as we will not allow even a single Vietnamese refugee to settle in this country," he told reporters here.

Megat Junid said Third Countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and Germany which often spoke about basic human rights should accept all these Vietnamese refugees on humanitarian grounds. Though no time-frame had been set for their leaving this country, nevertheless the Foreign Ministry was making efforts to speed up the process of their resettlement in third countries, he added. Megat Junid said efforts were being made to persuade the refugees to return home to Vietnam with the cooperation of the Vietnamese Government.

The refugees had been here far too long and ths situation should not be allowed to continue even though they were being financed and taken care of by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), he said. "Every year 300 children are born at the Vietnamese refugee camps.. and in 10 years their number will certainly rise," he said.

New Sharing Terms for Deep-Sea Oil Exploration

BK2111054191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0415 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The production-sharing contract (PSC) terms for deep-sea blocks in Malaysia will include longer exploration and development periods and better profit oil split for oil companies, the financial daily, BUSINESS TIMES, reported Thursday.

The paper quoted Azizan Zainul Abidin, president of the state-owned National Oil Corporation, Petronas, as saying that the exploration period will be extended from the current five years to seven years and the development period from four years to six years.

However, the production period—the times which companies are allowed to produce oil from the contracted fields—will be maintained at 15 years. This means that the duration of the contract for deep-sea exploration (normally more than 200 metres deep) will be 28 years, compared with 24 years for the present blocks.

"We are also trying to decide on the profit oil split which will enable investors to have a reasonable return on investments for the more difficult blocks," he said.

An estimated 98,600 square km of deep-water areas, mostly in Sarawak, are yet to be explored. Azizan said Petronas is expected to offer two deep-sea blocks by the first half of next year.

Prior to 1976, the year the PSC system was introduced, oil companies in Malaysia operated under the concession system where large areas were made available, but with the government having little control. In return for the concession, oil companies paid royalty and taxes. The PSC system means that oil companies work as contractors to Petronas. Oil companies can recover their cost and share the profit under the cost oil and profit oil concept.

It was reviewed in 1985 where under cost oil, the companies can recover up to to 50 per cent of their gross production for oil field and 60 percent for gas field.

The profit oil or gas is shared between Petronas and its partners based on a sliding scale depending on how much oil or gas is produced.

Apart from operating in the country, Petronas through its subsidiary, Petronas Carigali Overseas, has been involved in exploration work in Vietnam, Myanmar [Burma], and China.

Petronas has 15 percent stake in an onshore block with Idemitsu in Myanmar. In Vietnam where Petronas has 100 percent stake in two blocks, seismic acquisition started on Oct. 7 and will be completed by Dec. The first well is expected to be drilled by the middle of next year. In China, Petronas is working with British Petroleum which is the operator.

Singapore

President Wee Returns Home From Malaysia Visit

BK2211143491 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Excerpt] President Wee Kim Wee has returned home after his first state visit to Malaysia. He explained that his first visit was really successful. He expressed [words indistinct] bonds of friendship and understanding between the two countries. He said (?the sound) relations between the two countries would continue to [words indistinct]. He said that he had gained [words indistinct] during his stay in Kuala Lumpur 11 years ago.

The president noted (?mutual) visits by ministers [words indistinct] to improve relations. A spokesman said during the president's visit both sides [words indistinct] more exchanges of visits [words indistinct].

The four-day state visit was at the invitation of the yang di-pertuan agong [paramount ruler] of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah. (?He accepted) President Wee's invitation to visit Singapore. [passage omitted]

President Wee Receives Finnish President

BK2411142691 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] President Mauno Koivisto of Finland called on President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana [Palace] this evening. President and Mrs. Koivisto also attended a dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Wee.

The Finnish leader is in Singapore on a four-day private visit. He will leave for the Maldives tomorrow.

Lee Denies Plan To Replace Premier With Son

BK2311120891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Singapore, Nov 23 (AFP)—Singapore political patriarch Lee Kuan Yew on Saturday strongly rejected speculation his son was waiting to replace Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong after the government's recent electoral setback.

Lee, who is senior minister in Goh's cabinet, has kept a low profile since the August 31 polls that saw the opposition win an unprecedented four of the 81 parliamentary seats and make new inroads on the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) vote.

But in an interview with AFP, Lee dismissed as "absurd" suggestions he might be keeping his distance from the man who replaced him last November as prime minister after 31 years.

"I am serving in his cabinet. My job is to help him. I do not help him by just coming out in support," Lee said. "He has to make his own mark. He has to establish his standing with the people of Singapore."

Goh took the elections results as a personal setback, fueling conjecture that he might come under increasing pressure to give way in the next two or three years to Lee's son, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

But Lee Kuan Yew called such reports "just wild, idle and completely unsound speculation," saying "My job is not to get my son to be prime minister. My job is to make sure that Singapore has a government that works."

"It's just bonkers if they believe that we are engaged in an elaborate conspiracy to undermine the prime minister," Lee said.

Asked whether he endorsed Goh's declared intention to serve out his five-year term as premier and stay on until at least 1999, the 68-year-old Lee replied, "I don't know what I'll be in 1999. That's a long time for me. But I support him. Whether I will be able to support him beyond this term into 1999 is another matter."

Lee was non-committal about Goh's new pledge to take a tougher hand in ruling Singapore and not let his much-publicised open and consultative style give government critics a license for "open hunting."

"He has to learn to find his own balance between being flexible and being firm," Lee said. "The style has got to fit the mood of the people."

Lee recalled that Goh, only his second choice to succeed him, was selected heir to the top spot by cabinet colleagues in 1984 and again in 1988. "We are into this phase. There's no turning back," the former prime minister said.

New Airline Communications Center Opens 21 Nov

BK2211150491 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Nov 91 p 47

[Text] Societe Internationale De Telecommunications Aeronautique (Sita), which yesterday opened its new $30-million communications center in Loyang, expects air traffic growth in the Far East to remain buoyant.

The region, because of its continued economic expansion, will be the main contributor to the organization's financial growth this year, said Mr. Bernard Leroy, general manager of (Far East and Pacific), who spoke to reporters after the opening ceremony.

On the other hand, prospects are less bright in the recession-hit North American and European markets.

Commenting on Sita's revenue this year, he said "If this year's growth is 10 per cent, it will be a good one."

Sita provides the international airline industry with services such as ground-to-air data communications, air cargo management and passenger reservations. Its turnover last year amounted to some US$500 million (S$825 million).

The $30-million new investment by Sita is just in building and equipement. It is understood that it has spent a similar amount on sophisticated software. The new centre houses under one roof all of Sita's facilities, previously scattered all over Singapore.

Sita, registered here 30 years ago, also plans to perform more research development (R&D) in Singapore, particularly in systems development for the airline industry. Of its 130 staff here, some 40 engineers and specialists are involved in R&D, said Mr. Leroy.

Economic Development Board managing director Tan Chin Nam, who officiated at the opening ceremony, said Sita's new building supported Singapore's development in the field of information technology.

Founded in 1949, and headquartered in Paris, Sita is the world's largest specialised telecommunications co-operative network, operating in 180 countries. It counts 400 airlines as its members.

Singapore, together with two other centers at Atlanta in the United States and Paris, supervises its entire global network on an eight-hour rotational basis each day.

Cambodia

French Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 22 Nov

BK2311123091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1112 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 23—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who arrived here Friday [22 November] morning for a three-day visit to Cambodia, attended the same day the ceremony inaugurating the Napoleon III pavilion renovated with funds donated by France, in the compound of the royal palace.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, and other Cambodian leaders were present on the occasion.

The French minister took the opportunity to pay homage to Prince Sihanouk who, he said, incarnated the legitimacy of Cambodia, its vitality, its resistance, and its will to survive years of sufferings.

Mr. Dumas described the pavillon offered by the late Emperor Napoleon III to King Norodom on the occasion of inaugurating the Suez Canal at the beginning of this century as "the symbol of both foreign and rich relations" which emerged at the end of the last century between the two countries. He further said that "France is happy to be found again here (in Cambodia) at this monment" and that he was pleased to "serve the cause of peace and friendship between Cambodia and France."

In a fine improvised speech, Prince Norodom Sihanouk exalted the French presence in Cambodia, calling it "a happy marriage between our two cultures and civilisations." The prince also recalled the support and assistance given by France to the resurrection of the ruins of

Angkor, an undeniable proof of the great Khmer civilisation and of which the Khmers of today still remain very proud."

Holds Talks With Hun Sen 23 Nov

BK2411075691 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] On the morning of 23 November at the Council of Ministers office, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, held bilateral talks on cooperation with H.E. Roland Dumas, French foreign minister, who was officially visiting the State of Cambodia at the invitation of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state of Cambodia, father of the Cambodian nation, and SNC chairman.

The meeting discussed in detail necessary conditions for the effective implementation of the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord on Cambodia. The talks also focused on preparations to render perfect the tasks of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia.

On that occasion, H.E. Hun Sen warmly welcomed the presence of H.E. Roland Dumas on the Cambodian soil, stressing that this is due to the efforts of the diplomatic relations between Cambodia and France for peace and reconstruction of Cambodia.

In his reply, H.E. Roland Dumas applauded and thanked the State of Cambodia Goverment for the cordial hospitality accorded to his visit which represents the valuable efforts of France and Cambodia. He also paid high esteem for the joint drive in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem until achieving the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, especially the efforts of H.E. Hun Sen.

Holds News Conference

BK2511064591 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1114 GMT 24 Nov 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Nov (SPK)—The French foreign minister said that "France, which wants to lead Cambodia to peace, now has a duty to assist the country toward democracy and development."

At a news conference held on the second day since his arrival in Phnom Penh the chief of French diplomacy briefed Cambodian and foreign reporters on the talks he held with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), and Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers.

He stressed that his talks with Mr. Hun Sen "allowed" him "to identify a number of sectors that require urgent assistance, which France is happy to provide."

"The Prime Minister," continued Mr. Roland Dumas, "insisted on seeing France taking part in the formation and adaptation of the economic, administrative, and judicial structures in Cambodia." "The second sector in which he wishes to see our strong intervention is agriculture, including rubber plantations" the French minister indicated.

Mr. Roland Dumas then cited some projects—such as the Franco- Cambodian high school, the National School of Administration and Management, the Institute of Economic Studies, and the Rubber Institute—the setting up of which was halted.

When I said democracy and development, I wanted to say that France wishes to see Cambodia turning its back definitively on its painful past and looking to the future. When I said development, I meant that France, first on a bilateral level but also as coordinator of forthcoming aid, will take part in giving value to this country's resources and wealth; the country's natural and human resources are great," stressed the French minister, who added:

"The Cambodian people are courageous, inventive, and adroit; there is no fate that condemns them to continuous misfortune. If the political apparatus set up by the Paris agreement materializes and develops—and this is both likely and desirable—all the conditions would be complete for Cambodia to know an era of calm, peace, stability, and development.

Concerning the alliance between FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the (ruling) [as received] Cambodian People's Party [CPP], Mr. Dumas explained:

The Paris agreement rests on two pillars:

The intervention of the United Nations in a framework that has been accepted by all parties aimed at getting the international community to invest in the return of peace in Cambodia. The United Nations has the duty to confirm the pacification, the cease-fire, and the disarming of warring parties; to assume the control of the administration during the transitional period; and to provide guarantees for the elections, which should be free."

The second pillar of this agreement, he continued, is represented by the SNC and the cochairmen of the Paris international conference, whose duty is to maintain the balance between these two institutions: the UN representative and that of the SNC. All parties are represented within the SNC. What goes on inside the political forces—an arrangement in view of the forthcoming electoral campaign—is only normal."

He added that the rapprochenment between the CPP and FUNCINPEC, now led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, "does not shock me. What is important is that the SNC continues to function the way it is conceived."

Sihanouk Announces Coalition Government 23 Nov

BK2311054091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 23 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh Government will form a coalition government with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the resistance party led by the son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the prince announced Saturday.

The Cambodian People's Party [CPP], which Thursday announced a political alliance with FUNCINPEC, the party led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, will form the new government within a week, Prince Sihanouk said.

Prince Sihanouk made the announcement while meeting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC—which until recently was headed by the prince himself—will announce a reshuffle of cabinet ministers within a week, the prince said.

The parties will jointly support candidates in the 1993 elections, he said.

Coalition Government Plan Detailed

BK2311070791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 23 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh Government will form a coalition government with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Inpedendent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the resistance party led by the son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the prince announced Saturday.

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen and FUNCINPEC—the party led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh—will form the new government within a week, Prince Sihanouk said.

"Moreover, they have also decided that during the election campaign and for the elections in the provinces they will share common lists," he said.

Elections are scheduled under U.N. supervision for 1993.

The decision to merge the government was made jointly by Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, Prince Sihanouk said.

"They made a pact, my two children," he said, adding, "Sihanouk had nothing to do with it."

The prince has referred to Hun Sen as his second son since he returned from exile November 14.

"They are adults. I am not behind it," he said, speaking at a meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

FUNCINPEC and the CPP had already announced a political alliance that was formalized on Thursday.

The formation of the coalition government would most likely involve a cabinet reshuffle to include some members of FUNCINPEC, but Prince Sihanouk did not address this question directly.

He attacked press reports that moves to ally FUNCINPEC and the Phnom Penh Government were aimed at alienating the Khmer Rouge or the party of Son Sann, Cambodia's former prime minister.

"It's aimed against nobody," the prince said.

The implications for the interim Supreme National Council (SNC) were not immediately clear.

The four factions sit together on the 12-member SNC, a body formed under a U.N. peace plan to represent Cambodia's sovereignty while it is under U.N. supervision.

The peace plan gave the Phnom Penh Government six representatives and the three resistance factions—that of Son Sann, the Khmer Rouge and FUNCINPEC—two representatives each.

Prince Sihanouk left his leadership of FUNCINPEC in August to become the neutral chairman of the SNC.

The prince said his "position as a neutral president has been called into question."

In recent days he has affirmed that he takes no sides as head of the SNC, despite his constant praise of the Phnom Penh Government and announcement of support for the Hun Sen-Ranariddh alliance.

On Thursday he declared himself head of state with the support of all sides. He said Saturday he was bound to be reelected. "I shall win inevitably," he said.

Khmer Rouge Said Not Opposed

BK2411130091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 24 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge are not opposed to the formation of a Phnom Penh-FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] coalition government, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Sunday.

"According to Prince (Norodom) Sihanouk, they do not oppose it," he said on the tarmac of Pochentong Airport while waiting for the departure of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Son Sann is not opposed either, the foreign minister said. Son Sann is a former Cambodian foreign minister who leads another faction that fought to oust the Phnom Penh government in a nearly 13-year civil war.

Prince Sihanouk announced Saturday that FUNCINPEC, one of the former allies of the Khmer Rouge and Son Sann, would join in a coalition with the Phnom Penh government.

The prince used to head FUNCINPEC himself, but he turned over direction to his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh in August in order to take up a position as neutral head of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Hor Namhong said a cabinet reshuffle would follow the convening of a National Assembly meeting to approve the incorporation of FUNCINPEC members into the Phnom Penh administration.

"It will take a little time," he said, but could not give a date for the reshuffle.

Prince Sihanouk said the new government would be formed within a week.

Chea Sim Confirms Agreement

OW2511115191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 25 Nov 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 25 KYODO—A top leader of Phnom Penh's ruling party confirmed Monday it has agreed with a faction loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk to form a coalition government soon.

Japanese envoy to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa quoted Chea Sim, president of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), as saying Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the Sihanouk faction, has agreed to join the Phnom Penh Government as a cabinet member to "broaden the base of politics."

Chea Sim also said the party will cooperate with the Sihanouk faction in forthcoming elections, although it will not be hostile to the two other anti-Phnom Penh groups, Imagawa told reporters.

The CPP leader made the remarks during a meeting with former Liberal Democratic Party secretary general Keizo Obuchi, who arrived in Phnom Penh earlier in the day on his way to Vietnam.

Sihanouk, who once led a coalition of three rebel groups, including his own, unveiled the coalition government plan last weekend.

Besides Ranariddh, Sihanouk's son, another son and a daughter of the former Cambodian monarch are expected to get subcabinet posts when his faction forms the proposed coalition government, informed sources said.

Ranariddh will be a deputy prime minister in the new government to be formed within a week, the sources said.

Prince Norodom Chahkrapon will likely be vice minister of tourism and Princess Bopha Devi, a prima ballerina in Cambodia's ancient dance, vice minister of information and culture, they added.

Ranariddh and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen signed an agreement last week between the Sihanouk faction and the CPP to cooperate in free elections, expected in early 1993 under the supervision of the United Nations.

Hun Sen, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and Defense Minister Tie Banh will retain their posts in the proposed new government, the sources said.

The close alliance between the Sihanouk faction and the CPP indicates they intend to isolate two other rebel groups—the radical communist Khmer Rouge and a nationalist faction led by former premier Son Sann—and grab an overwhelming leadership, they said.

A peace accord signed in Paris last month calls for all four factions to participate in general elections to choose a new government.

All the factions have recognized Sihanouk as head of state since his return November 14 from 13 years of exile.

Sihanouk is a neutral head of the Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim body grouping both the Phnom Penh Government and the three rebel factions until elections are held.

It comprises six members from the Phnom Penh side and two from each of the rebel factions.

The SNC, which has met several times outside Phnom Penh for peace talks, held its first meeting in the capital Saturday, with 10 of its 12 members attending besides Sihanouk.

Eleven of the members are now in Phnom Penh to take seats on the SNC, which will soon open its headquarters in the capital.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is now expected to arrive Wednesday, one informed source said.

General Staffs Sign Memorandum

BK2511134591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Press communique of the National Defense Ministry spokesman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Ladies, gentlemen, and dear friends: A working session was held on 23 November at the Armed Forces

Foreign Relations Department between the representatives of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Staff headed by Lieutenant General Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the CPAF General Staff, and representatives of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of FUNCINPEC—National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia—headed by Major General (Preap Yoeun), deputy chief of the General Staff, representative of the FUNCINPEC Armed Forces, and head of the FUNCINPEC military delegation, and Major General (Kim Vong), chief of the FUNCINPEC party's Military Coordinating Committee, to discuss the signing of a memorandum on the coordination, contacts, and cooperation between the armed forces in the spirit of the agreement on the alliance signed between the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and FUNCINPEC on 20 November 1991.

On that occasion, the exchange of views proceeded in an atmosphere of goodwill, reconciliation, mutual understanding, and mutual trust. The two general staffs focused mainly on the unanimity of views concerning the reconciliatory ways to be wrapped up into principles as basis for agreements reached in concrete implementation of the accord signed in Paris in order to conjure up genuine peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

The session proceeded with a sense of cordiality and friendship, and was crowned with pride-inspiring, excellent success.

On 25 November 1991 the representatives of the CPAF General Staff headed by Lt. Gen. Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the CPAF General Staff, and the representatives of the FUNCINPEC Armed Forces headed by Maj. Gen. (Preap Yoeun) resumed their working session in a move toward achieving unanimity in signing a memorandum of great significance and importance to be implemented in a concrete way by the two general staffs in accordance with the alliance agreement signed between the CPP and FUNCINPEC.

At 1500 on 25 November 1991, the representatives of the two general staffs finally signed their memorandum and adopted a resolution to effectively implement the peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 in order to work for both political and social stability in Cambodia.

PDK Statement Voices Support for Sihanouk

BK2311010891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Nov 91

["Excerpts of the statement by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea"; dated 21 November—read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when there is an agreement on a political and comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem and that national unification and reconciliation around the Supreme National Council [SNC] with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman is taking shape, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], as a genuine nationalist party, holds that it is necessary to amend Cambodian history to conform with truth and reality.

In this spirit, the PDK notes that the 18 March 1970 coup d'etat was illegal and completely contrary to the Constitution. On this historic occasion when the four parties' national forces within the SNC meet in our beloved city of Phnom Penh to implement the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 to solve the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively, the PDK would like to solemnly and officially state that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk remains Cambodia's legitimate and rightful head of state since before 18 March 1970 to this day, and until there is a new president resulting from free and democratic elections organized by the United Nations.

The PDK would like to solemnly and officially state again that the PDK supports Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the legitimate and rightful Cambodian head of state in the past as in the future.

The statement also specifies that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has sufficent influence to unify and reconcile our Cambodian nation and has ample qualities, both in terms of real influence and as a symbol of the nation, which can rally the entire national force to build our Cambodia toward quick progress to catch up with other developed countries the world over.

[Dated] Cambodia, 21 November 1991
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the PDK;
Son Sen, vice chairman of the PDK.

Sihanouk Thanks Khmer Rouge

BK2311011491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Message from Norodom Sihanouk to Khieu Samphan and Son Sen 21 November 1991; read by announcer]

[Text] Norodom Sihanouk, 21 November 1991

To His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]; H.E. Son Sen, vice chairman of the PDK:

Most profoundly loved Excellencies: I am very glad and proud to express greatest thanks to the PDK, with both of you as outstanding representatives, for the statement by the PDK on 21 November 1991.

The PDK's solemn and historic statement declaring constant support for me and cleaning up the honor and name of our beloved nation and motherland, particularly rendering great and very correct justice to myself for which I have been waiting for a long time—over more than two decades—has greatly touched and moved me and I will mark and remember this in my heart forever.

Excellencies, and all colleagues in the PDK, please accept my most profound love, consideration, and gratitude from me and my wife.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

First SNC Meeting Held in Phnom Penh 23 Nov

BK2411050691 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] On the evening of 23 November, at the office of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], an historic meeting was held between the SNC and Roland Dumas, foreign minister of the French Republic and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC]. This is the first time that the Cambodian SNC has held its meeting in Phnom Penh City since the signing of the peace agreement in Paris on 23 October 1991.

This meeting was held under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Cambodian SNC.

Attending this meeting were Their Excellencies Dit Munti, chairman of the Propaganda and Education Commission of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and SNC member; Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and SNC member; Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia and SNC member; Im Chhunlim, first deputy chief of the CPP Central Committee cabinet and SNC member; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] movement and SNC member; Sin Sen, deputy interior minister of the State of Cambodia and SNC member; Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and SNC member; Son Sen, commander in chief of the Democratic Kampuchean Army and SNC member; Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister of the State of Cambodia, and SNC member; and Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the KPNLF and SNC member.

His Excellency Roland Dumas expressed very moving sentiments on the first meeting of the Cambodian SNC at the SNC office, formerly the French Government guesthouse. His Excellency considered this meeting to be an historic one for peace through the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. His Excellency Roland Dumas hoped that all Cambodian parties will cooperate to implement the Paris peace agreement efficiently and successfully.

Speaking on this occasion, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk profoundly thanked the Government of the French Republic, particularly His Excellency Roland Dumas, who has been making efforts to promote the Cambodian peace process and create conditions for the success of the PICC. The samdech also thanked the government of the French Republic for assistance in repairing the SNC office, and also for continuing to carry out its task in accordance with the agreement.

Sihanouk Urges Demobilization

BK2311145891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Excerpts] PHNOM PENH, Nov 23 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, at the first-ever meeting in Cambodia of the Supreme National Council (SNC), demanded the complete demobilization of all Cambodian forces.

"We need to demobilize 100 percent and not 70 percent" of the Cambodian factions' soldiers, the SNC chairman told reporters waiting outside the meeting room.

"I propose they keep only their uniforms in order to conquer dancing girls at nightclubs," Prince Sihanouk said.

Under the United Nations peace plan signed by Cambodia's four factions last month, 70 percent of all soldiers are to turn in their weapons and return to barracks.

But diplomats and critics have charged that it is impossible to verify a partial demobilization because any side could inflate its figures.

Phnom Penh has so far refused a total demobilization, reasoning that it is easier to collect weapons from a traditional army than to demobilize guerrillas.

The SNC was meeting despite the absence of one Khmer Rouge representative, party leader Khieu Samphan.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas watched over the meeting, which could not address official business because the SNC needs all 12 members to have a quorum. [passage omitted]

Prince Sihanouk said that despite a new coalition government being formed by the Phnom Penh regime and the party led by his son, he would remain completely neutral.

"I can assure you we are going to respect the Paris peace accords," Prince Sihanouk said. "Even the Khmer Rouge have given me a formal assurance that they are going to loyally respect all aspects of the accords." [passage omitted]

Khieu Samphan Fails To Attend

BK2311121891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Nov 23 (AFP)—Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) met Saturday for the first time ever in Phnom Penh—despite the absence of a Khmer Rouge member.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas watched over the meeting, which could not address official business because the SNC needs all 12 members to have a quorum.

"We have met all over the world; we might as well meet in Phnom Penh. It's much less expensive," Dumas joked to SNC chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the two walked through the SNC building's long, carpeted corridor on the way to the meeting room.

Dumas shook hands with Khmer Rouge representative Son Sen, but missing from the group was his leader Khieu Samphan, who has delayed his return to the capital. His arrival has been awaited for more than a week.

The SNC agenda was not known and the meeting was not expected to finish until well after dark.

Earlier, Dumas made a tour of Phnom Penh, held talks on reconstructing Cambodia with Prime Minister Hun Sen and visited an elementary school turned into a torture center by the Khmer Rouge. It is now a genocide museum.

"Never again," the French minister wrote in the visitors' book at the end of the tour.

He was visibly moved by his tour of hte torture chambers, still stained with blood after 15 years.

"This is not the kind of visit one forgets," he said. "This makes us want to do everything in our power to make sure it never happens again.

More than 20,000 Cambodians died in the Toul Sleng detention center, the victims of a radical Khmer Rouge campaign to rid Cambodia of Western influences.

During a press conference, the foreign minister emphasized that the Khmer Rouge need to be kept within the peace process.

"To allow them to distance themselves would be much worse," he said.

France has been a key player in negotiating the peace treaty ending the Cambodian conflict.

He said it was an encouraging sign that the Khmer Rouge had decided to recognize Prince Sihanouk as Cambodia's titular head of state, proving that they have "decided to play the game of the Paris peace accords."

He said China's position toward the Khmer Rouge—which it has supported militarily throughout the war—was the key to making the peace work.

"China's role is decisive," he said. "I hope the Chinese leaders are fully aware of their responsibility."

Sihanouk Launches Khmer Festivals 20 Nov

BK2111105391 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0825 GMT 21 Nov 91

["Water and lantern light festival celebrated with high hopes for peace and national reconciliation (by an SPK correspondent)"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 21—In their best clothes, crowds of Cambodians, especially young couples with their children, turned out to the Mekong River bank here Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the traditional "Water Festival" filled with joys and high hopes for peace and national reconciliation.

The road stretching for four blocks of houses on the east bank of the Tonle Sap Lake was closed to traffic to allow festival goers, old and young, to enjoy the festivities at the ceremonial places.

Most main streets have put on a new coat of paint, and the one in front of the Royal Palace was decorated with the flags of the State of Cambodia and the Supreme National Council, while oriflammes were fluttering at the honour platform and tribunes for high-ranking officials and foreign guests.

Under the afternoon sunshine of the windy season, hundreds of thousands of Cambodians in their traditional and modern dresses, including farmers who travelled hundreds of kilometres to the city from their villages were crowding the mile-long esplanade along the Tonle Sap Lake from the ruined bridge of Chrouy Changva to Chakdomuk Conference Hall, just east of the Royal Palace.

It was for the second time that the Cambodian Government celebrated these traditional festivals: the regatta, procession of illuminated floats and salutation to the moon, which are very pupular with Cambodians on the "Kattik or Kadek" lunar calender (usually in November).

"Kattik" is the twelfth month of the lunar year which normally falls in late October and early November. The festival in "Kadek", which is also a month of wedding ceremonies, is being resurrected after nearly two decades suspension due to warfare in the country.

These three gala days also mark the end of the rainy season and the receding of floods.

The explanations given to these ceremonies are the same as "loy pratip" or the procession of illuminated floats. Some people suggested that the ceremony was to express thanks to the "water and land" for their favours toward human beings. A document on history in the 12th century under the reign of King Jayavaraman VII (1181 to about 1201) said that the king waged a river war against the "Cham" invaders, successfully defeating the besiegers of the royal capital on pirogues. Bas-reliefs in galleries at Bayon Temple and Banteay Chhma Temple related the scenes of that battle.

According to a history book, King Ang Chan I also used pirogues in 1528 to fight off the enemies.

The three kinds of boats used during the Longvek epoch were similar to the two types of boats (Tuk Ngor and Tuk Muong) introduced to the current competition and the third called "Tuk Pok-Chay" or a large motorless freight barge or junk carrying foodstuff for the regular forces.

This year, the festival became all the more jubilant as it was not only a revival of a Khmer tradition, but also a welcome to the long-awaited peace and national reconciliation.

The event was honoured with the participation of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, President Heng Samrin, Cambodian People's Party President and National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, Prime Minister Hun Sen, and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] Chairman Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Also present at the northern tribune were ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions newly accredited to the SNC and officials and officers of the United National Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

The recent developments in Cambodia and the festive days of the Cambodian people also drew in more than 300 foreign mediamen, including those from the VOA, AFP, AP, Reuter, UPI, National Republic Radio, Kyodo, Asahi Shimbun...

The ceremonies of the regatta began at 14:47 hrs (local time) after a 15 minute-speech delivered by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who said he was deeply moved by the revival of this lively traditional festival for the Cambodian people.

The former monarch briefly highlighted the significance of the festival linking it with agricultural production, the main branch of the country's economy.

The SNC chairman, after expressing profound gratitude to his beloved countrymen for their continued support to him, branded as unconstitutional the 1970 coup d'etat staged by the U.S.-backed government of former President Lon Nol.

In conclusion, he said he would be a candidate for the 1993 presidential election and that he was resolved to work with all his heart and mind for the cause of peace, freedom, democracy, the better living conditions of his countrymen and the country's prosperity.

In accordance with established customs, the "Bon Om Tuk" or regatta festival this year took place on the Tonle Sap Lake, in which 114 boats joined in the 14th "kaeut," one day before the full-moon day of 'Kadek' or Nov. 20 (compared with 134 boats on Nov. 7-9, 1965 which was the biggest festival) paddled and rowed by more than 4,000 boatmen and boatwomen (compared with 6,000 in 1965).

The 114 boats with legendary and attractive names consisted of 76 boats paddled by men while standing, 26 shells with highly curved ends rowed by men while sitting, eight boats paddled by women, and two shells rowed by women, plus one boat of the Japanese club here, and two boats of non-governmental orgnizations working in Cambodia.

With a 900-metre stretch of competition for 12 laureates, these racing boats and shells, which ended their first round of racing at 16:45 hrs and turned downstream for a second run which ended at 17:50 hrs, were monitored by four referree boats while two helicopters were patrolling the competition area.

Each time the pirogues reached the finish line, the winning boatmen in their uniform and caps of different colours, shouted hurrah for their victory and "Lord Papa," the title given to the prince in his younger years as head of state in the 1960s.

Amidst strains played by modern music bands, we walked our way through the crowds in the northern direction to the departure point of the racing pirogues.

It was true that not only the prince and honour guests but all the viewers of the competition were filled with great joys.

Many were betting on the winning of the race and recalling last year's festival in interminable chats. For their part, small children with balloons of different colours and forms in their hands were craning their necks to try to have a look at the pirogues with oarsmen in traditional uniforms they had never seen before.

Un Rim in his sixties from Pang Na Commune, Kong Pisei District, Kompong Speu Province, came here with his children and grandchildren to join in the celebrations. He said that with the comeback home of the prince, the Cambodian People's Party would be able to bring about peace, thus ending forever the sufferings of the Cambodian people.

Other men of his age from the northwestern province of Battambang shared his opinion, saying that they had a strong desire for peace and the country's prosperity.

An elderly man said he was a professor in Phnom Penh, adding that he hoped to see the return of lasting peace and genuine national reconciliation in the supreme interests of his countrymen and free of the past nightmare.

A crippled combatant said that he and his wife were delighted with the revival of the traditional water festival and that he welcomed the return of peace so that from now on nobody also would be maimed like him in war. He expressed his hope that next year all the displaced people and war refugees could have the chance to join in these celebrations.

At 6:20 P.M the SNC chairman, lighted 25 candles to signal the start of the procession of 12 illuminated floats or figures decorated with lights on boats representing different institutions, sectors and private societies.

Also at this hour, a 35-minute display of Chinese-made fireworks sent all adults and children into roars of joyful shouts.

The gala evening ended with a contest of "Ayai" (a sort of exchanging songs on a specific subject sung by a man and a woman) and "Chapei" (a kind of two-string Khmer guitar played in accompaniment of songs on legends of development of a local community).

Gives Opening Speech

BK2111125391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Speech by Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of Cambodian Supreme National Council, at the opening of the traditional water festivals held in Phnom Penh on 20 November—recorded]

[Text] I pay my respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Heng Samrin and wife, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and wife, and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and wife, excellencies, gentlemen, ladies, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, compatriots, and my most beloved and missed children. Especially, I pay my respects to all children in beautiful uniforms who are here to take part in our beautiful traditional regatta to be held from today to the day after.

I am greatly moved to see all the good traditions of our Khmer and Cambodian race such as the annual great regatta, being revived, thanks to the kindness and the clear-sighted policy of Their Excellencies Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC]. Therefore, I take this most auspicious occasion to pay respects and express many thanks to the compatriots and children in the CPP and SOC Government and particularly the three leaders. I profoundly thank our Cambodian people, that is all of my children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts who are my most beloved compatriots. Thank you very much. [applause]

This regatta was terminated since the coup d'etat staged by Messrs. Lon Nol and Sirik Matak. Later, during the era of Mr. Pol Pot, our good traditions and our religions namely Buddhism, Islam, and the beliefs of Cambodian ethnic minorities were all ceased. But now all these religions and good traditions have been revived. This is due to the outstanding feats of the three excellencies and the CPP and the SOC. [applause]

Each country should preserve its own religion, beliefs, race, the good traditions of its own values, such as our regatta and festival of lights. This is an opportunity for us to expand and consolidate the solidarity, union, and unity of our Cambodian nation. Our national identity, all our religions, and good traditions of our nation give us honor in the international arena and the world. We must not lose our identity as the Khmer, as Cambodia. We preserve our identity and honor equally with the others because, on the one hand, we have full independence with our territorial integrity [words indistinct] through our struggle that was full of sacrifice. On the other, it is because we know how to preserve our national identity and values such as the regatta tradition.

This regatta has the following broad meaning: We observe this festival because of our religious beliefs, as explained in the book published by the SOC and the CPP. Therefore, there is no need for me to waste time explaining this. Also, we have always considered agriculture as important. In fact, it is the biggest resource of our nation. Our nation has abundant resources and our people work hard. Agriculture has improved thanks to the water we have in the Mekong River, Tonle Sap Lake, and the Basak River, and to our water policy. Water is the lifeline of our nation and the base for expanding and strengthening agriculture. This means to achieve self-sufficiency and to enable all our children to enjoy the maximum happiness.

Each year, whenever we have good crops ... [changes thought] and like this year, no matter how serious the flood was, all children under the wise and clear-sighted leadership of the CPP and SOC Government successfully overcame the problems caused by the flood. After the flood subsided, all the children, wasting no time at all, strived day and night to grow crops such as rice. The other day I went out of Phnom Penh with their excellencies, the leaders and children, to visit places in Kandal Stoeng District, such as Kompong Kantuol in Kandal Province. On the way there, I saw crops growing satisfactorily. This planting of rice makes us happy. Thus, we are now observing our good traditional festivals. This is also an opportunity for us to meet each other as we are doing now and will be doing again tomorrow and the day after. I do hope to meet all children on the same occasion next year and in the years to come as we used to prior to the 1970 coup d'etat, so that we can expand and strengthen our unity, solidarity, and peace for our entire nation. [applause]

In conclusion, I take the opportunity of this traditional occasion to thank Their Excellencies Chairmen Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen, all excellencies, madames, gentlemen, and ladies who are the outstanding members of the CPP and SOC. Today, they have solemnly and historically announced that I will remain as the father of the nation as before, that I will forever be the parent of the nation as in the past and that the coup d'etat staged on 18 March 1970 by Mr. Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak was an illegal coup d'etat that ran counter to the Constitution of our nation. I wish to inform all excellencies, compatriots, and children that the CPP and the SOC have announced solemnly and historically that they have restored justice to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk who was unreasonably victimized, that Sihanouk has been very loyal to the motherland, and that his ouster was illegal and unjust. Therefore they have restored justice to me. They have also solemnly and historically announced that I remain the head of state of all of Cambodia and remain so until the general election is held in our country in 1993. Then, I will also be a candidate. It was also announced today that during the presidential election voters will unanimously elect samdech euv, the prince father Norodom Sihanouk, as the head of state. Therefore, I would like to thank Their Excellencies Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen and all outstanding CPP and SOC members who represent our people. I deeply thank them and I promise that I will work around the clock to improve our people's livelihood and build and make our nation prosperous and plentiful as in the Angkor era within the framework of brotherly cooperation, within the same family as close relatives, as close colleagues within the CPP and SOC, forever for the sake of peace, happiness, and the well-being of our people.

May all of you enjoy the protection of the three jewels of Buddhism. And may you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [applause] Thank you, thank you. Now, the three excellencies sitting to my right have requested that I announce the opening of the regatta, our most popular festival. So, I now declare the opening of our great regatta festival! [applause]

Presides Over Moon Festival

BK2211102391

[Editorial Report] Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 22 November broadcasts a station correspondent's report with a 19-minute recorded portion on the traditional moon festival ceremony held in the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on the evning of 21 November to predict next year's rainfall in the presence of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The announcer highlights the significance of the ceremony which is traditionally performed during the full moon of the month of Kattik of the lunar calendar or November. He notes that the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] and government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have revived many traditional ceremonies, including the water, lantern light, and moon festivals, since 1990. He says that this year's moon festival gains added importance with the return home of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The ceremony begins at around 2100 with the arrival of traditionally dressed dignitaries and Buddhist faithfuls who are seated in the Teveavinichai Pavillion where food, fruits and other oblations are placed on a carpet in offering to the moon.

After interviewing the official in charge of organizing the ceremony on the meaning of each object required in the ritual, the announcer describes the scenes in and around the pavilion amid strains of traditional music and notes the presence of, among others, "General Bou Thang, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Chea Soth, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Say Chhum, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and standing vice chairman of the Council of ministers; Mat Ly, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Mrs. Men Sam-an, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; Nguon Nhel, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and minister of agriculture; Ney Pena, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; and Gen. Sin Song, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and minister of the interior."

Other ministers, deputy ministers, and officials are on hand, and so are foreign ambassadors to the the SOC and the SNC [Supreme National Council], foreign guests, and journalists from various countries.

At 2200 His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and of the National Assembly, and his wife arrive at the ceremonial site, followed 10 minutes later by H.E. Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, and his wife. They are warmly greeted by a military band and all guests present.

At 2215 Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and his royal consort arrive amid a warm welcome by all present. The prince and his wife cordially shake hands with party and state leaders and go up to the main hall of the pavillion to pay their respects to Buddhist monks. After Prince Sihanouk, his wife, and his son Prince Ranariddh have presented flowers and offerings to the thrones and the images of Lord Buddha, the moon ceremony starts with solemnity as Sihanouk lights candles and incense sticks while the master of ceremony recites a prayer and conducts the ritual pleading to the gods in the seven heavens to bring abundant rainfall to the country in the coming year.

At the end of all the rituals and after everybody has looked at the full moon and eaten rice cakes in a joyous atmosphere, Prince Sihanouk makes a 19-minute speech to all ceremony participants. He thanks the SOC leader for reviving all the popular traditional festivals of the country and for promoting and boosting the development of Buddhism as well as other religons of the minority people. "This has not only made me so pleased with and grateful to the CPP and the SOC Government, but it has rendered all of us very happy and proud because the CPP and SOC Government leaders have brought rapid national reconciliation to the country by inviting me to become the father of the nation, the father of the SOC, the father of peace with independence and territorial integrity as before and enabling all of us to be reunited with mutual trust, mutual affection, and mutual esteem. This has made it possible for all of us to enjoy peace and to join hands as a single body in the same great family to carry our nation, our state back to civilization, progress, and development as in the Angkor period."

Sihanouk then proceeds to explain the significance of the moon festival, which suits the mentality of the people of Cambodia where agriculture is the main source of life. He notes: "However, according to a French proverb, help yourself first and God will help you. Thus, we have to help ourselves in water conservancy, and we can see that the SOC Government and the CPP have already focussed attention on this water policy. Relying on the moon, relying on the skies is part of our ancestors' belief in retribution, in the fruits of one's good deeds. It is good to accumulate good deeds through charity and other spiritual acts. But we must first of all believe in our own actions. If all of us Buddhists believe in the good results of our own efforts to build the nation, the moon surely will help us."

Sihanouk points out: "In the recent floods before my homecoming, all of you under the wise leadership of their excellencies the three chairmen of the CPP and SOC Government worked hard to combat the inundation and I, too, made some contributions by seeking aid from friendly countries, the international community, and the United Nations. Our efforts bore fruits, as the saying goes: for the skies to help us we must help ourselves, we must rely on ourselves. This is reasonable. I am pleased that we have taken the correct path."

Sihanouk then stresses: "On this occasion of our ceremony of cornucopia, many of our dear friends and big countries, such as the Kingdom of Thailand, have paid an official visit to our country. They have witnessed how we are reunited in the most joyous, fun-filled, and jubilant ambience compared to the past when we experienced nothing but suffering, misery, and tragedy. I do not have to recall more details of that at this moment. It is obvious that we have been revived as an independent Cambodia with plenty of freedoms. They have seen that we are united. This is the excellent result of our observance of the Lord Buddha's teaching about the invincibility of nonviolence, about extinguishing the fire of violence with the water of nonviolence. It is for this reason that I and H.E. Hun Sen have since our first meeting in 1987 made every effort in our work through the use of cohesion and nonviolence. Once the CPP and SOC Government have chosen this path of reconiliation, of nonviolence, there no longer existed any obstacle that would prevent us from meeting one another, from reuniting in an atmosphere of joy as we are doing at this moment. And we are able to march forward in raising the living conditions of our compatriots and developing our country toward progress and civilization."

In conclusion, Sihanouk expresses confidence in the bright future of the nation "thanks to the 100 percent correct choice of path made by the CPP and SOC Government." He adds: "I would like to express optimism that we will remain in national solidarity, union, and unity forever and I am confident that the peace agreement we signed in Paris on 23 October will be implemented until Cambodia can be fully reintegrated as a civilized nation equal to other bigger countries. This is not my belief alone. It is also the belief of all of you, excellencies and people of Cambodia."

In referrence to the presence of Thai Foreign minister Asa Sarasin at the ceremonial site, Sihanouk says before concluding his speech: "On behalf of their excellencies the chairmen of the SOC and of all my children and in my own name, I would like to express gratitude, honor, and joy to all delegations present here, including the delegation of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Thailand represented by H.E. Asa Sarasin, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Madame. We are most happy on the occasion of this ceremony to see that our great friend Thailand has come here to unite as one with us, the SOC. I take this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Thailand for according us considerable assistance and rendering great services to us till we reach the shore of peace and achieve national reconciliation and union in national unity. I pray to the three jewels of Buddhism symbolized by the images of the four ancestral kings in this place to provide protection for H.E. Asa Sarasin and Madame, for all excellencies and madames in the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha."

Speaks at Closing of Festival

BK2311074691 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Report by unidentified station correspondent on 12-minute recorded portion of speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at closing of water festival ceremony in Phnom Penh on 22 Nov]

[Summary] [Begin Sihanouk recording] Greetings to Their Excellencies Chairmen Heng Samrin and wife, Chea Sim and wife, Hun Sen and wife, friends, and beloved children and grandchildren.

"First of all, I would like to greatly thank the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia's Government for thinking of our nation's necessity, namely peace, national unification and reconciliation, with no war and unity such as that in the era of the samdech euv [Sihanouk's popular title] in the 50's and 60's. The CPP has also kindly decided to link itself to the samdech euv's previous doctrine, that is the Sangkum Reas Niyum." [name of Sihanouk's political party]

"In the last part of my life—I am 70 years old now—I am very fortunate to have taken part with you, children, and as the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government have said, to be our nation's shelter, our nation's father, and your father, such as in the past so that we have happiness with full independence and territorial integrity." [applause]

I am very happy to see Phnom Penh again and the achievements which came after those of the Sangkum Reas Niyum. "I would like to express greatest happiness and most moving sentiments toward you, children, and for being in your midst with unity and in a fraternal and happy atmosphere and optimism for the future to build our Cambodia worthy of the Angkor era with glory and prosperity." [applause]

"At a time when our nation and your astute leaders—that is the party of the three excellencies, that is the State of Cambodia's Government—are reconciled, and at at time when the three other parties—our compatriots, who are part of our Cambodian Supreme National Council—are now in our capital," many countries the world over are rejoicing with us. These countries have successively come to establish relations with us, and have brought aid for rebuilding our country.

"I have only 100 percent praise and satisfaction for the three excellencies, the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and for my beloved children who have finely organized this water festival." To you all, including those who have energetically taken part in the boat race, I express my warmest congratulations. [applause] [end recording]

Khmer Rouge Assures Cooperation in Repatriation

BK2411012091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] The Khmer Rouge has given assurances it will cooperate with the United Nations plan to repatriate more than 350,000 Cambodians from refugee camps inside Thailand, a senior UN official said Friday.

Also, with the signing of the Paris peace accord last month that ended 13 years of civil war in Cambodia, donations to fund the $109 million repatriation are starting to flow in, said Jamshid Anvar, director of the Asia office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Anvar, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, and Cambodia's Supreme National Council led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk signed the repatriation agreement Thursday in Phnom Penh.

The agreement provides for refugees to return home safely to areas of their own choice.

Asked at a Bangkok news conference about fears the communist Khmer Rouge would try to force refugees into areas of Cambodia they countrol, Anvar replied:

"I can say that Prince Sihanouk was very, very emphatic yesterday in the presence of all the faction leaders... He turned to each single person and indicated to them that they have assured the prince they will fully cooperate with the UN in preparing these people in accord with their choice to safely and in dignity return to Cambodia.

"A special question was posed about the Khmer Rouge attitude, and again Prince Sihanouk turned to Son Sen and repeated the same thing," Anvar said.

The reconciliation council Sihanouk heads comprises leaders of the Vietnamese-installed government and the three guerrilla groups that opposed it, including the Khmer Rouge.

Son Sen is one of two Khmer Rouge representatives on the council. He was the military commander who presided over massive purges and executions when the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia frodm 1975-78. Hundreds of thousands of people died.

Last month the Khmer Rouge detained the civilian leaders of Site 8, a refugee camp in Thailand they control, and replaced them with military hard-liners backed by armed troops.

Camp residents and international aid workers said they feared soliders would force the refugees to go to Khmer Rouge-controlled areas of Cambodia in order to build a political base for the UN-supervised elections planned for 1993.

After international condemnation, the Khmer Rouge said it would comply with the UN plan. But new fears were raised with the appearance last week of a dirt road, wide enough for a truck, leading from the Cambodian border to Site 8.

However, Anvar said Son Sen personally assured him that the Khmer Rouge agrees with the UN plan.

"I met with Son Sen... Two days before the signing agreement and presented him with a final draft, and he confirmed to me that they are fully in agreement with the Memorandum of Understanding," Anvar said.

The UN repatriation plan is voluntary. Officials estimate some 50,000-100,000 Cambodians will go home on their own and the rest with UN assistance.

Before the repatriation can begin, hundreds of thousands of mines must be removed from the countryside, an operation that could take years, Anvar said.

UN officials have to balance the eargerness of the refugees to return and the Thais to get rid of them with determining when it will be safe enough for repatriation to begin.

The current estimate is possibly March. Depending on how much and how quickly mine-free land can be found, UN officials hope to move up to 10,000 refugees to Cambodia each week.

They expect virtually all of the refugees to return home.

Value of U.S. Dollar Plunges on Black Market

BK2411084791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 24 Nov 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 24 (AFP)—The U.S. dollar plunged drastically against Cambodia's riel on the black market Sunday after Phnom Penh announced it was forming a coalition government with one of its former enemies.

SNC chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced Saturday that his former party, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]—now headed by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh—would enter a coalition government with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Within 24 hours the dollar dropped 37 percent, from 1,030 riel to 650 riel to the dollar.

"This is absolutely shocking," said a senior economist with the Asian Development Bank who had no immediate explanation.

"It could be a manipulation by a group of businessmen who are becoming very powerful," he said.

The rate of 650 riel is the lowest in at least six months and well below the official bank exchange rate of 1,000 riel to the dollar.

The bank rate had been largely ignored in favor of loosely controlled street-side vendors previously offering 10 to 20 percent more.

"Everybody wants to give dollars," said one ethnic Chinese shop-keeper on Phnom Penh's main boulevard Achar Mean. "Cambodian currency is very good now," she said. "We don't have very much left."

Phnom Penh's shop-keepers, their glass display cases piled high with riel notes, set the rate of the dollar daily.

"These people are becoming very powerful," the economist warned, playing down the effect of the announcement of the coalition government.

The street markets are so volatile that the rate often changes several times in the same day, and rates among neighboring vendors may differ by as much as 50 riel.

The dollar had fallen 10 percent in the two weeks after the arrival of U.N. ceasefire observer troops and the return from exile of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

It had been fluctuating between 1,100 and 1,030 riel to the dollar, down from a high of 1200 last month.

Demand for dollars was high in October, when shopkeepers imported goods from Thailand in anticipation of the onslaught of foreigners—and needed dollars to purchase the items.

But the U.N. force of 388, plus hundreds of journalists here to report the arrival of Prince Sihanouk and the delegations of foreign diplomats setting up recognition of the Supreme National Council (SNC) has flooded the markets with dollars.

The dollar, which had traded in the morning at 1,030 riel, dropped to around 900 riel by late afternoon. By Sunday morning it was at 650 riel.

The dollar is the stable currency in Cambodia and, along with gold, it is used for purchases of big-ticket items such as houses, appliances and cars.

The dollar's exhange rate is linked to the value of gold and confidence in the Cambodian economy.

Because high inflation—estimated at 200 percent annually—forced people to carry bricks of 100 riel notes just to make normal purchases, the government recently issued a 500 riel note.

It reportedly plans to introduce a 1,000 riel note next year.

Cambodia's economy has been devastated by 13 years of civil war, which ended with a peace treaty signed last month.

Four years of fanatical rule before that did not help either. Under the radical regime from 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge blew up the central bank and abolished money, forcing people instead to barter for goods and services.

Rebuilding an economy from scratch has not been easy. People lack confidence in money, and the joint-venture Cambodian Commercial Bank recently launched a campaign to get people to make deposits in currency rather than keeping their money at home in gold pieces.

Khmer Rouge Radio Urges Great National Union

BK2311032591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Nov 91

["Article": "Only with the unity of the national and people's forces in the great national union, in accordance with the appeal of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, and efforts to implement the agreement well and correctly can there be genuine independence, peace, and security"]

[Text] Our Cambodia now has an agreement to solve Vietnam's war of aggression. This agreement is being gradually implemented. Our people both inside and outside the country, who have become victims of Vietnam's act of aggression, and the overwhelming majority of independence- and peace-loving countries the world over, want this agreement implemented correctly and meticulously so that Cambodia can regain genuine independence, peace, and security.

To achieve this goal, the samdech chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] is carrying out activities to rally national and Cambodian people's forces to unite in the great national union within the framework of the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk without internal quarrels and disputes, white, black, red, or blue.

During the war, the national and people's forces were split because of Vietnam's war of aggression. However, following the agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression, the national and Cambodian people's forces are being reconciled and are uniting in the great national union under the SNC banner, with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, and are striving to implement this agreement correctly and meticulously.

Only by acting in accordance with the royal appeal for great national union can the peace agreement be implemented well and correctly to end Vietnam's war of aggression, can there be genuine peace and security with territorial integrity, and can the Cambodian people have the opportunity to earn a living normally again.

Cambodian People's Party Developments Analyzed

BK2211050591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 4

[By Jacques Bekaert: "Long Live the Party"; under the rubric: "Cambodian Diary"]

[Text] A day before he was demoted from the Cambodian People's Party leadership, Mr Heng Samrin sent a congratulatory telegram in the name of the Central Committee to the Fourth Congress of the Cuban communist party. He expressed the Cambodian party's "satisfaction" that under the "clear-sighted leadership of the communist party," Cuba had "surmounted a great many obstacles" in its economic construction. It was probably the last official message sent by the communist party of Cambodia to another communist party in the world. The last ritual congratulations signed by Heng Samrin.

What used to be the daily life of communist parties around the world is coming to an end. I wonder if anyone ever believed these messages. Today Heng Samrin, former military regional commander of the Khmer Rouge Eastern Zone, is little more than an embarrassment for the freshly renamed Cambodia People's Party (CPP). He is now in a strange competition with Prince Sihanouk for the presidency of the country and it is doubtful Heng Samrin himself has any illusion about his real importance.

Sihanouk, the CPP said, is now the president of "all of Cambodia," whatever that means, while Heng Samrin is only the president of the State of Cambodia. Cambodia, in its own style, is entering the world of real politics, of electoral politics, and Heng Samrin's electoral sex appeal is, in the words of a Soviet diplomat based in Phnom Penh, "less than zero."

Noboday paid much attention to the recent CPP Congress despite the fact that the former People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea had officially abandoned its old Marxist-Leninist ideology, changed its name and emblems, and switched from red to blue.

In a world where Marxism-Leninism is sinking, where former communist parties are losing one election after another, it was the "correct" move. The vast majority of Cambodians, many of them poor, uneducated peasants, have little interest in communism. Practically all the intellectuals are strongly anti-communist. People like Mr Hun Sen realised a few years ago that a communist party would not be popular and that it was better to move away from socialism.

Important changes came in 1989, after the second Cadres Conference in mid-April. The last Congress finished the job of desocialising the party. It had become fairly easy to perform such political surgery in a country increasingly left to itself. I imagine that more than a few dedicated Vietnamese communists regretted seeing their Cambodian comrades move away from the old ideals, but they had no illusion about the depth of Cambodia's commitment to socialism anyway. "I doubt you could find more than half a dozen true communists in the entire country," a senior Vietnamese diplomat told me a few weeks ago.

But what about substance? What has the party become? What is the organisation? The title of comrade is gone. The gentlemen of the old PRPK leadership, still in place, call themselves Excellencies now. (Curiously, in a recent Phnom Penh radio broadcast, only Mrs Men Saman, a veteran of the politburo, was denied such title and was simply called "madame.")

The politburo has been renamed "standing committee of the Central Committee" and former alternate members seem to have been promoted to full membership. The organisation is probably untouched, and the political language retains the old flavour.

In his inaugural speech on 17 October, Heng Samrin explained that the Congress reflected "the transition toward a phase of political struggle to continue the grandiose cause of the party which, since its foundation, has never deviated from its ideals."

He praised the prestige of the Cambodian nation which has been rehabilitated "on the path of independence, peace, neutrality, and democracy along with its territorial integrity." The latter point may be a message to Vietnam, since Hanoi is frequently accused by Cambodian officials (at least in private) of having nibbled some territory since 1979.

In his concluding speech, Mr Chea Sim, often considered the party's strongman, spoke of the "beloved motherland of Angkor." He praised the "forces of great national union without discriminating against the past" (The Khmer Rouge leadership speaks in similar terms these days) and insisted, after a reference to Human Rights, on the importance of a free market economy "which permits all types of economic trade." He said the party will not carry out "nationalisation," will ensure free movements of goods and will work to "promote rural development with a view to narrowing the gap between the living conditions in the country and in the city."

The party's platform claims the state "will not levy taxes on farm land for five to ten years beginning in 1992." The State, added Mr Chea Sim, "will also exempt or reduce taxes to favour companies importing agricultural equipment and will assist them in exporting some quantity of rubber, timber and cereal. This will be regulated by the State."

Deputy Minister of Defence Lt-Gen Nhim Vanda said the State would soon privatise several commodities still under its control, like rubber, tobacco and maize. If this is true, how can the State find its revenue in the future? The present tax collection is minimal and the State controls only about seven per cent of the economy.

"We want to do everything for the people, we will do everything the people want," added Lt-Gen Nhim Vanda.

In their speeches, CPP leaders tend to identify the party with the State, but they also come to terms with the present reality. And they are certainly doing everything possible to make sure that such identification can survive in the future so that they, too, can stay in power.

The Cambodian People's Army held its own, little-publicized Congress in October and pledged "to unite with the people around the CPP" and to "turn ourselves into the combinced forces of the nation." The Army vowed to "contribute to the coming election campaign, defend the party leadership and state authorities, prevent a recurrence of past catastrophe, and join in the work of national development."

Several generals are in the party leadership. By proclaiming Prince Sihanouk the new president of the country, without even bothering to consult the other factions, and even sugesting that the monarchy could be restored, the CPP is certainly following the wishes of the majority of the Cambodian population. It also illustrates the fragility of previous political commitments, and the realism of the party's direction in view of the upcoming elections.

To be in power is better than to be out of power. Of course in a few weeks' time the CPP could announce that it would be better "for the sacred interest of the country" to create a great movement of unity around the CPP and Prince Sihanouk.

Mr Son Sann and Khieu Samphan could protest, but what else?

Indonesia

Authorities To Free Timor Incident Detainees

BK2411045191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0447 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 24 (AFP)—Indonesian police authorities in Dili, East Timor, plan to release all but 12 of 41 people detained in the wake of a shooting incident there this month, a leading newspaper here reported Sunday.

The KOMPAS daily quoted Dili police chief Colonel Ishak Kodijat as saying interrogations of 41 people detained in connection with the November 12 shooting were still proceeding but "several of them would be released soon."

Kodijat said only about 12 of those detained would remain in custody, but he failed to say what the authorities had in store for them.

He also said he regretted the attitude of the local representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who objected to a police move to register East Timorese seeking refuge in their premises.

Some 30 East Timorese holed up at the ICRC officies shortly after the shooting at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, where witnesses said troops shot at a crowd that had gathered there.

According to the official version, troops shot in self-defence as the crowd began attacking them. Official estimates put the number killed at 19, although other sources including witnesses have said up to 115 people may have died.

"We only wanted to data (from) them and not (to) arrest them," Kodijat said, adding that only eight people were left in the ICRC office there.

KOMPAS Sunday also quoted East Timor military operational commander Brigadier General Rudolf Samuel Warouw as denying foreign press reports that there had been armed clashes in Los Palos in the eastern part of the region in which 20 people died.

"The report is entirely not true," Warouw said, adding that he himself had been in Los Palos on Thursday to inaugurate a drinking water project built by the military for the local population.

KOMPAS also quoted Warouw as saying in Dili Saturday that he had ordered troops to shoot on the spot any member of a masked gang that has been intimidating the population in Dili.

He said strong rumors circulated in Dili that a gang whose members all wore masks and many of whom had long hair were making night arrests in the city, spreading fear among the population.

But Warouw said he personally had not seen any member of the gang and did not know whether they existed.

Military To Check Amnesty Group's Victims List

BK2511114091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1058 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 25 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia will check the list of victims of the November 12 Dili incident released by Amnesty International during a press conference in Sydney Monday, a spokesman for the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) said here on the same day.

The spokesman Colonel Zurmanis Zen told ANTARA that the government would check the list.

The government has always been open, including towards the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on such issues, he said.

Amnesty International from Sydney released the names of 60 people feared to have died or wounded during or shortly after the incident.

The November 12 incident broke out after the mob in the capital of Indonesia's 27th province went wild and brutally attacked security officers.

The security officers were then forced to adopt stern measures as the sympathetic and persuasive methods they applied came to no avail.

According to Zen, reports by Amnesty International were frequently found to be inaccurate as it was dependent on unreliable sources.

Indonesia in handling the incident has set up a National Investigation Commission (KPN) chaired by M. Jaelani, a Supreme Court judge.

The seven-member independent commission will carry out its tasks fairly, thoroughly and objectively, chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno said.

The setting up of the team was upon nobody's request, State Minister/Secretary Murdiono told newsmen minutes before his departure to accompany President Suharto on his current 25-day tour to South American and African countries.

Gen. Sutrisno is scheduled to attend a hearing with the House of Representatives (DPR) on the incident on November 27.

Sutrisno Denies Setting Up Protests in Australia

BK2411052691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0506 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov. 24 (ANTARA)—Armed Forces commander General Try Sutrisno stated here on Saturday that the recent demonstrations by some groups of Indonesian youths at the Australian Embassy had been done upon their own will.

"It doesn't matter. They must have been called forth (by a sense of patriotism) after they saw their national flag burned in Australia," he said after meeting Vice President Sudharmono to report routine duties.

Several groups of Indonesian youths from the Pemuda Demokrat (Democratic Youth), the National Commitee of Indonesian Youth (KNPI) and the Indonesian Trade Unions (SPSI) recently conducted demonstrations at the Australian Embassy to protest the Australian Government for letting some of their citizens burn the Indonesian national flag and blockade the Indonesian Embassy and Consulate General.

"The demonstrations were not set up and what is important is that they should never create excesses," Gen. Try said.

Regarding the inquiry commission on the Dili incident, the armed forces commander said that the commission would really conduct the inquiry as objectively as possible.

The formation of the commission is a manifestation of the good will of the Indonesian Government and is done so that all aspects of the incident could be made clear, he said.

Gen. Try appealed to all parties concerned not to develop prejudice towards the inquiry commission and also asked the people not to be easily provoked by the people who wished to exaggerate the incident.

He assured that the commission would be impartial but would investigate all aspects of the problem as extensively and objectively as possible.

MPs Protest Netherlands Plan To Delay Aid

BK2311090891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0812 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 23 (OANA-ANTARA)—Two members of the House's Foreign and Defense/Security Affairs Commission said here Saturday, Holland must not use the November 12 incident in Dili to corner Indonesia, especially because relations between the two countries had always been based on a mutually beneficial concept.

Legislators Imron Rosyadi and Theo L. Sambuaga said on a separate occasion, that the Dili incident should not rift the two countries' friendly relations.

"Holland 'had gone too far' if it decided to suspend their new aid to Indonesia, since actually, we are also concerned about the incident," he said commenting on the Dutch Government's decision to postpone its new cooperation projects in Indonesia due to recent riot in the provincial capital of East Timor.

According to Rosyadi, the setting up of an independent fact-finding commission (KPN) reflected the fact that the Indonesian Government was really serious in solving the problem in a just and honest way.

A Dutch embassy official, Gerald J.H.C Kramer, Friday confirmed his country's desicion to postpone "temporarily" its new development assistance to Indonesia pending an internationally acceptable investigation into the incident.

The announcement about the decision was first made by spokesman for the Dutch Development Cooperation Ministry Jaap Kleinrensik, Thursday.

The decision will remain in effect untill there is more clarity on the incident, Kramer said.

Holland spends about 200 million U.S. dollars annually on development projects in Indonesia, he said.

The country also contributes about 100 million U.S. dollars of the 4.75 billion aid pledged through the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) in June.

Furthermore, Rosyadi said, Holland and other Indonesia's friends should not be easily "influenced" by the out-of-proportion mass media reports about the incident that claimed 19 lives and injured 91.

He expressed the hope that Holland would consider again its decision about the postponement since it would only ruin the Indonesia-Holland bilateral relations.

He reminded that the country had a lot of interests here. Rosyadi urged both coutries to discuss their different views over the matter.

Meanwhile, Sambuaga said, the Netherlands should see the Dili incident in an objective, not in emotional way.

It must not let itself be carried away by the general opinion formed by people who disagree with East Timor's integration with Indonesia, he said.

"Holland or other countries should not be influenced by Portugal's campaigns to corner Indonesia by making use of the East Timor incident," he added.

He said that Portugal had always sought for Indonesia's weaknesses since East Timor decided to integrate with Indonesia in 1976.

The campaigns were launched because the country wanted to hide its irresponsible attitude in the now 27th province of Indonesia, he said.

"I just want Holland to see the problem in proportional way, not through emotional eyes," Sambuaga said.

Sambuaga said, the Indonesian Government must remain calm in facing the problem and not worry about any "threat."

"We believe we can solve the problem ourselves," he said.

Army Paper Says Portugal To Blame for Incident

BK2311083891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 23 (AFP)—Portugal is to blame for unrest that led to last week's bloody shooting in Dili and a demonstration here by East Timorese seeking self determination, the Indonesian Armed Forces' ANGKATAN BERSENJATA daily said Saturday.

"The actions that took place in Dili and the most recent anti- integration (of East Timor into Indonesia) demonstration in Jakarta, could be ascertained as the result of planned engineering by Portugal," the newspaper said in an editorial entitled "Portugal's Involvement."

According to witnesses, Indonesian troops on November 12 shot into a crowd gathered at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, the East Timor capital, for a memorial service for an East Timorese who had been killed in a clash on October 28.

The official version, which said troops fired in self-defence after they had been attacked by the "rioters," put the number of deaths at 19 while other sources, including witnesses, say as many as 115 may have died.

A Jakarta police officer was Friday reported as having told lawyers that police were still detaining 70 youths, who had demonstrated along a busy avenue of the Indonesian capital three days before to demand self-determination for the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA also pointed to Lisbon's failed attempt on Thursday to have one of its journalists—Mario Robalo, who had visited East Timor in the summer—address a plenary session of the European Parliament to discuss the East Timor event.

"This news only strengthens our belief about Portugal's involvement in engineering the bloody incident in East Timor," the newspaper said.

"It is not impossible that several foreigners, who were seen actively taking part in organizing mass movement during the brutal Dili demonstration, were henchmen of Portugal just as Mario Robalo is one."

Lisbon is using any opportunity to discredit Indonesia and "reviewing our experience so far, Portugal has never really intended to free East Timor as its colonial territory, even more so to let it integrate with Indonesia," the newspaper said.

"Now, the best and respectful way out for Portugal is to forget its old dream," it added.

Foreign Media Denounced for Bias on Timor Coverage

BK2311045091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 23 Nov 91

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 23 (AFP)—Indonesia is increasingly denouncing what it calls biased coverage by foreign media of an incident this month in which troops fired into an unarmed crowd of mourners in the East Timor capital, Dili.

The November 12 shooting was indirectly linked to the cancellation of a visit there by a joint United Nations-Portuguese delegation after Jakarta rejected a journalist who was to have traveled with the group on grounds of bias.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said barred reporter Jill Jolliffe, the Lisbon correspondent for THE MELBOURNE AGE, was a supporter of the East Timor National Liberation Front (Fretilin).

Portuguese officials coming to investigate conditions in the territory refused to drop Jolliffe, choosing instead to cancel their visit.

In the wake of the cancellation, increasing tension developed in Dili and led to a clash between proponents and opponents of self-determination for East Timor, prompting security forces to intervene. Two people died in the incident.

Indonesia unilaterally annexed East Timor in 1976 after the former Portuguese colonial administration departed.

Foreign journalists were present when troops fired into the crowd near a cemetery in Dili, and their accounts helped prompt an international outcry.

After last Sunday's announcement of an Indonesian Government inquiry into the shooting—demanded by the United States, Australia, and the Netherlands, among others—Jakarta's claims of bias in the foreign media grew louder.

In The Hague, capital of the country that held colonial sway over Indonesia until the 1940s, the Indonesian Embassy issued a communique Tuesday complaining of "imbalanced and fabricated reports" on East Timor "published by foreign, including Dutch, media," ANTARA NEWS AGENCY reported.

The same day, Indonesia's leading English-language newspaper, THE JAKARTA POST, linked the foreign press not only to unfair coverage of the incident in Dili but to involvement in the event itself.

"Possibly if eyewitness reports from Dili last week are to believed," it wrote in an editorial warning to the commission of inquiry, "this would include the media reporters who encouraged unruly crowd behaviour by asking demonstrators to hold up their banner, merely for the sake of getting more dramatic pictures."

A foreign cameraman videotaped the incident, which was broadcast overseas, while Information Minister Harmoko insisted Wednesday that foreign coverage of the shooting was biased.

The incident involved Indonesia's internal security and resulted from trouble caused by opponents of East Timor's integration into Indonesia, he said.

On Thursday, a Bandung-based newspaper, the PIKIRAN RAKYAT, quoted a well-known Indonesian political science professor as saying the situation in East Timor had deteriorated because of its openness to foreigners—particularly the foreign media.

He was quoted as saying the government should limit visits of foreign journalists and diplomats to East Timor for three to six months.

The SUARA KARYA newspaper, close to the ruling Golkar party, said Friday it hoped the "international community would cease to speculate, even under the pretext of 'reliable sources,' on the causes of the the incident, on who was responsible or guilty."

A day earlier, the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ran a WASHINGTON POST editorial headlined "Shame on Indonesia," which began: "By chance, a couple of American journalists were in East Timor... last week at the precise time and place when the security forces opened fire."

It urged Jakarta to view the resulting publicity not as "simply as a public relations problem" but as a chance to review its East Timor policy and "abandon an exercise in Third World colonialism that represents an embarrassment to a country seeking respect and a wider role."

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan Returns From Paris Summit

BK2311133291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] President Kaysone Phomvihan arrived back home by a special plane this morning after ending his participation in the fourth summit of francophone countries held in Paris from 19 to 21 November.

A ceremony was held at Wattai Airport to welcome the president and his entourage with the presence of Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Nouhak Phoumsavan, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, the deputy prime ministers, ministers and deputy ministers, and high-ranking cadres from many ministries and departments under the center.

Daniel Dupont and Nikhom Tantemsap, respectively ambassadors of the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, were also at the airport to welcome the president and his delegation.

Premier Receives Australian Trade Minister

BK2311101691 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon of Laos yesterday received here a courtesy visit by Dr. Neal Blewett, MP, minister for trade and overseas development of Australia, who is visiting Laos to attend the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for the construction of the first Mekong bridge.

The discussion between the Lao prime minister and the Australian minister proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship.

Khamtai Siphandon appreciated the visit to Laos of the Australian Government delegation who together with the Lao Government will attend the opening ceremony of the Mekong bridge construction symbolising the cooperation between three countries—Laos, Australia, and Thailand.

He expressed thanks for the fruitfull assistance over the years by the Australian Government. On his part, the Australian minister acclaimed the Australian-Lao cooperation over the years. The cooperation will be continued, in particular the Australian Government assistance to complete building the Mekong bridge as scheduled.

This is to further strengthen the bilateral relations and solidarity.

The Australian minister for trade and overseas development and his party arrived here yesterday.

Premier Speaks at Mekong Bridge Inauguration

BK2411124791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0259 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Speech by Khamtai Siphandon, Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] prime minister, delivered at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Mekong Friendship Bridge held on the floating pavilion in the Mekong River at Tha Naleng Wharf in Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Municipality, on 24 November—live]

[Text] Respected His Excellency [H.E.] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand;

Respected H.E. Dr. Neal Blewett, minister of trade and overseas development of Australia;

Respected excellencies and members of the diplomatic corps:

Today, I am overwhelmed and greatly honored to represent the LPDR government, together with H.E. Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand; and H.E. Dr. Neal Blewett, minister of trade and overseas development representing the Australian Government; in performing the ceremony to accept the project and to inaugurate the construction of the Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River, a gift to the governments and peoples of the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Mekong River is one of the largest rivers in the world. It is a great source of wealth for the peoples earning their living and carrying out economic development in the countries through which it runs. For the Lao and Thai peoples in particular, the Mekong River is significant as a river of friendship, solidarity, neighborliness, and brotherly affection between the two countries.

At present, economic and cultural relations are developing between Laos and Thailand as well as among the countries in this region. This calls for the creation of a communications route which will provide conveniences to all parties concerned. Therefore, the construction of this bridge represents the establishment of a very important communications project for the immediate and long-term future. This bridge, when completed, will bring about great benefits to the two countries of Laos and Thailand. It will also contribute to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and various countries in this region. At the same time, it also serves as a token of friendship and cooperation between Laos, Australia, and Thailand.

Respected personages, the Lao Government and people will always highly value our friendship and cooperation and the assistance of the Australian Government and people. On behalf of the LPDR Government, I sincerely thank to the Australian Government and people for having assisted Laos, and for building this Friendship Bridge. I am also overwhelmed by the ever developing friendship and cooperation between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand. We are convinced that the construction of this Friendship Bridge will further strengthen the good relations between the two neighboring countries. It will bring about genuine benefits to the two countries—Laos and Thailand—in accordance with the aspirations of the two peoples who wish to see the Mekong River turned into a river of peace and friendship. I commend the technical experts of the three countries for cooperating with one another in surveying and designing this beautiful bridge. I believe with close cooperation and a high sense of responsibility of the engineers and technicians of the three countries, the construction of this Friendship Bridge will be carried out according to plan.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to convey the best wishes of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR, to their majesties the king and the queen of the Kingdom of Thailand, and all Thai people. I extend our best wishes and thanks to H.E. Bob Hawke, prime minister of Australia and the entire Australian people.

I wish H.E. Anan Panyarachun, H.E. Dr. Neal Blewett, and all dignitaries attending this ceremony good health.

May the friendship between Laos, Australia, and Thailand be further developed and (? strengthened).

Thank you. [Applause]

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives Thai Prime Minister

BK2411130191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] At noon today at the Presidential Office in Vientiane, His Excellency [H.E.] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, called on H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on the occasion of his participation at the inauguration of the building of the friendship bridge across the Mekong River between Vientiane and Nong Khai. The ceremony took place earlier this morning.

Accompanying H.E. Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to pay the courtesy call on the LPDR president were the foreign ministers of Laos and Thailand—Phoun Sipaseut and Asa Sarasin—and a number of high-ranking cadres and officials. During the call, H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan and H.E. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun discussed the friendship and cooperation of Laos and Thailand, which are brotherly and neighboring countries. They hoped that that atmosphere of friendship and cooperation will be further developed.

Later at the same venue, H.E. Dr. Neal Brewett, Australian minister of trade and overseas development, who represented the Australian Government at the Mekong bridge inauguration, also paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan. They talked about bilateral friendship, assistance, and cooperation.

ADB Grants Loans for Educational Development

BK2111124091 Vientiane KPL in English 0927 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 21 (KPL)—The Asian Development Bank [ADB] has approved a loan of SDR [standard drawing rights] 9.947 million (U.S. $13.3 million equivalent) and a technical assistance grant of U.S. $500,000 equivalent to Lao People's Democratic Republic to implement an education quality improvement project. The loan will be made from the bank's Concessional Asian Development Fund, with a maturity of 40 years, including a grace period of ten years, and a one percent annual service charge, indicated a news release of ADB.

The project was developed out of the 1989 bank-funded education sector study in Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic]. It is the first bank project in the country's education sector.

Lao PDR is currently in the midst of market-oriented economic restructuring but lacks manpower with appropriate education and training to meet its needs. The government, therefore, has set the qualitative improvement of all levels and types of education as a high priority. The objective of the project is to assist the government in improving the quality of primary and lower secondary education through the development of the teacher education system and the production and distribution of instructional materials.

The development of teacher education will involve the rehabilitation and construction of ten primary and secondary teachers' colleges, upgrading of the upper secondary teachers' college at the Institut Universitaire de Pedagogie, provision of basic equipment and furniture, in-service training for teacher trainers, fellowships, modification of the training curriculum, and strengthening of the administration and management of teachers' colleges.

Instructional materials under the second component will be developed and distributed to suit the revised curricula for primary and lower secondary schools and teachers' colleges.

The technical assistance grant, from the bank's technical assistance special fund, is intended for the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) to enhance its capability for organization and management, adminstration of teacher education systems and higher education planning.

Philippines

Demand for Bases Consultation Reportedly Growing

HK2511120491 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The number of people in the province of Cebu who have been participating in the signature campaign launched for the holding of a consultation relating to the U.S. military bases issue is growing. It was known that signature campaigns have also been launched in other parts of the country. The campaigns aim to ask the government to hold a nationwide consultation to know the true pulse of the nation regarding the issue of the continuous stay of the foreign bases in the country. Although the government has already decided to allow Subic Naval Base to stay in the country for the next three years, many groups have continued their efforts to prolong the deadline fixed by the Aquino administration.

Start of Formal Base Withdrawal Talks Urged

HK2311063091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan stressed the need to start formal talks regarding the orderly withdrawal of American forces from the Subic Naval Base.

This statement was made by Fernan following the formal launching of his candidacy in the coming May 1992 presidential elections.

[Begin Fernan recording in English] This time, the issue with respect to the existing agreement is, to a certain extent, academic because what has been agreed upon is the phaseout period. So what should be discussed is the mechanics of the phaseout period of three years. If there is a new adjudication in the future for the negotiation of a new agreement, that's an entirely new ball game. And if you will ask me what the coming new ball game would be, then a referendum or plebiscite of the people would be in order, to find out the sentiments of the majority. [end recording]

Senator Warns of U.S. 'Intervention' in Polls

HK2511035591 Quezon City MALAYA in English 24 Nov 91 p 3

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] Sen. Wigberto Tanada (LP [Liberal Party]) yesterday called on the people to be vigilant in the 1992 elections as he warned of "blatant" American intervention in the polls to ensure the election of pro-bases senators and allow a longer stay of U.S. facilities in the country.

In an interview over radio station DZRH, Tanada said it is known that the U.S. has influenced past elections, but U.S. meddling might be "more open now that the bases are at stake."

"I will not be surprised if they will openly influence the 1992 elections. We know how important Subic Naval Base is to the U.S. I am really worried," he said.

Tanada cited *The Philippine Bases: Negotiating for the Future*, a book written by the New York Council on Foreign Relations headed by Gen. Brent Scowcroft, U.S. President George Bush's national security adviser.

Quoting from the book, Tanada said: "If the Senate blocks the treaty, the 1992 campaign, in which all Senate seats are to be contested, could focus on a single issue. The (basing) arrangement might be salvaged by the election of more pro-bases senators."

Tanada also noted a September report of THE NEW YORK TIMES which said: "A three-year withdrawal period would leave three years to work out a new arrangement for Subic. A new Senate may be much more amenable to an agreement."

Tanada also expressed apprehension over a new American $12-million aid program called "democratic pluralism initiative." He said the program, to be administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, may be used by the Americans to "directly interfere in the elections through its voice, choice-governance" concept.

Tanada said the postponement of U.S. withdrawal from Subic is a "delaying tactic" because the Americans are awaiting the results of next year polls.

Government Releases More Detained Rebel Officers

HK2211085891 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Six more detained officers of the RAM-SFP-YOU [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People- Young Officers Union] were released, bringing to 23 the total number of detained rebel officers who were released within this month.

Among those who were released were Marine 1st Lieutenant Betalio Santos, 1st Lieutenant Anastacio Macalon, 1st Lieutenant Roland Nocal, 2d Lieutenant Jarius Gerason, 2d Joselito Caparados, and 2d Lieutenant Menel Roxas.

The junior officers were detained in the Camp Crame stockade after their involvement in the failed 1 December 1989 coup. The junior officers will remain under the custody of their superior officers while they face trial.

Aquino Says Manhunt for Rebel Soldiers Resumes

HK2311030491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] will now resume the manhunt for the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance or RAM following the expiration of the deadline given by President Aquino, which is today [23 Nov local time], for them to return to military control.

President Aquino announced that her specified deadline ends today, thus, her directive for the manhunt should already be implemented. Mrs. Aquino stressed that she has already given them more than sufficient time to return to government.

Earlier, Honasan said that they will not surrender to the military despite the deadline set for them, until they see positive political changes in our country. He also accused some groups of sabotaging the peace talks between himself and AFP chief of staff, General Lisandro Abadia.

Honasan Blames Aquino for Collapse of Peace Talks

HK2511023291 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Former Colonel Gregorio Honasan has blamed President Aquino for the collapse of the peace talks between the government and the rebel soldiers. In a statement signed by Honasan, he stressed President Aquino's lack of political will, sincerity and perspective, which led to the failure of the peace talks between the government and his group. Honasan reiterated his call for political reform despite the wide-scale hunt for the rebel soldiers launched by the military after the 23 November deadline given by the government. Honasan and former Commodore Domingo Calajate ignored the government's deadline, which expired last Saturday. Honasan promised he will continue his fight for political reforms in the country and the holding of clean elections next year. Earlier, Honasan said he will not launch a new coup d'etat against the Aquino government during the last six months of her term. However, he warns he would take the necessary action should rampant cheating prevail in the 1992 polls.

Cardinal Sin Assails 'Soft Treatment' of Rebels

HK2311034691 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin assailed the soft treatment given by the government to rebel soldiers of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People- Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU]. The cardinal stressed that the rebel soldiers involved in a series of attempts to topple the government should not be reinstated to their positions but should instead be banned from the military forever.

Diplomacy is not justice and justice is not for self-serving purposes only. Cardinal Sin particularly meant this for former Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Red Kapunan, who after instigating a coup d'etat was pardoned and even reinstated to government service. Nonetheless, his eminence lauded efforts of the government to return the rebel soldiers to military control. This is a step towards unity that will greatly benefit the people.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Sin clarified that he will not endorse any particular candidate in the coming 1992 presidential elections. The cardinal stressed that it is the right of the Filipino people freely to choose their next president, who will alleviate our economy, who will be true to his service, and who was never part of the Marcos regime. His eminence also said that the next president should be God-fearing and should give top priority to the poor.

The cardinal also explained that despite the approaches of some presidential candidates, it doesn't mean that he will endorse a candidate. He can only give advice, he said. He also denied reports that he will endorse outgoing Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan. He clarified that he has nothing to do with Fernan's decision to run for president in the coming elections. According to him, Fernan already decided long before to resign from his position in the Supreme Court in order to push his candidacy.

Cardinal Says Church To Participate in Polls

HK2511035891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 23 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[By Mariquit Almario]

[Text] Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, yesterday said the Catholic Church would actively involve itself in politics and in the 1992 elections to "guide" the people in choosing the "right" presidential candidate.

Cardinal Sin also:

1. Criticized Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia for saying the military would interfere in the coming elections if they turned dirty; and

2. Lambasted the reinstatement of several military rebels, including former Colonel Eduardo "Red" Kapunan, to their military positions, saying this might lead to another coup attempt.

While the Church would not endorse any candidate, Sin said the next president should be "godfearing, competent, honest, willing and able to advance the common good and help especially the poor people."

Speaking before the 61st Annual Alumni Homecoming of the San Jose Seminary at the Ateneo de Manila University, Sin called on all members of the clergy, from the bishops to the parish priests, to guide the people in voting for the country's next leaders.

He said the Church could no longer distance itself from elections and politics as these affect the people's lives and the country future.

"I do think that because of the people we love, it is no longer possible that elections take place in the Philippines without significant participation of the clergy. The Church lives in the world, not in the clouds. The priest, too," Sin said.

In the coming polls, Sin added that the Church members had a duty to help the people see through the real intent and intersts of politicians seeking elected positions.

"The (priest) must freely participate in helping the people sort out the lies from the truth, separate the promising from the illusory, distinguish the wolves from the lambs and with his life, encourage the people to pray, think, sacrifice and act as they must," he said.

Sin said the voters must "screen" the candidates and choose the best presidential aspirant by evaluating his "honesty, competence, past record and private life."

Asked how many presidential aspirants had visited him and sought his advice, Sin said "almost all them have approached me."

However, Sin warned that the Church's active involvement in politics might be misinterpreted by some sectors as a move to engage and meddle in "partisan politics."

He added that the priests must continue to discharge their duty to the people although they might be "misunderstood, attacked and maligned" for their efforts to educate the voters.

"In my own efforts to catalyze genuine participation in the forthcoming elections, I have been accused of all manner of evil, political meddling, grandstanding, misuse of office, even communism. Jesus Christ also was accused of interference so he was crucified. I believed some of us will also be crucified," Sin said.

Aside from setting qualifications for the candidates, Sin said the Church would also help protect the voters' ballots in the midst of the existence of "goons, guns and gold" during the elections.

"In faith, (the priest) must animate the protection of the voters' ballots. In faith, he must move to protect the people's lives—even at the cost of his own," he said.

"Military officers who have plotted and schemed against the constitutional freedoms of our people, turned the horrible instruments of war against Filipinos, spilled the blood of the people they vowed to defend, and so sabotage our economy and made the lives of millions more miserable, ought to be punished, not reinstated in office, and banned forever from military power," he said. Earlier, Abadia had announced the reinstatement of Kapunan and several other leaders of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance] (RAM) after they surrendered to the government.

Sin warned that Abadia's decision, which was backed by Malacanang, might pave the way for another coup attempt in time with the coming elections.

"Any military unity based on an overhasty accommodation of rebellious officers is a unity that can be inimical to the country," Sin said.

"Somebody spoke about this, and I am afraid that if we do not watch out, this may happen again," Sin aid.

Sin called on the people to be vigilant and disallow attempts by the rebels or by the military to take over the government and jeopardize the 1992 elections.

"In faith, any moves of the military to overstep its constitutional boundaries to assert martial supervision over civilian supremacy must be rejected," he said.

Sin also criticized Abadia's earlier statement saying the military might again play the role it assumed during the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution if the elections failed to be "peaceful and honest."

"In the coming elections, it is not the military who will judge the validity of the elections, but the Comelec [Commission on Elections]. Any military leader who thinks, or even insinuates, the contrary must be reproved, if not removed," he said.

Sin added taht the people should ensure that another martial law would not be imposed by military leaders who might use the elections as the reason for grabbing power.

Government Allows Food Blockades Against Rebels

HK2511034991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Nov 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] Malacanang has issued a circular allowing food blockades for three days in areas where military operations against insurgents were ongoing provided this did not lead to starvation.

The circular seeks to guide military operations, particularly with regard to the control of the movement of civilians and imposing a food blockage, during tactical operations against communist rebels.

Memorandum Circular No. 139 said delivery of goods and services to civilians could be stopped for three days provided this did not lead to starvation.

Malacanang drew up the guidelines following complaints against the military food blockade in Marag Valley, Kalinga-Apayao.

Non-government organizations have scored the military for starving non-combatants in the valley during its campaign against the New People's Army (NPA).

Signed on Nov 19 by Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, the circular also allowed government agencies to provide goods and services even to "influenced and infiltrated areas" but only during "normal circumstances."

The circular said non-government organizations should coordinate with the Peace and Order Council (POC) in the locality.

Jan-Oct Death Toll in Insurgency Reported

HK2511055491 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Nov 91 p 3

[By Noel Bartolome]

[Text] A rebel leader who ordered the killing of suspected government deep penetration agents [DPA] in 1988 was demoted by the executive committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]-New People's Army, the Philippine National Police [PNP] said in a report yesterday.

Relieved as secretary of the Southern Tagalog regional committee was Miel Laurenaria alias Jenny, a regular member of the CPP central committee, according to recently-seized rebel documents.

Chief Superintendent Fantaleon G. Dumlao Jr., PNP Regional Command 3 director, said the executive committee has ordered a three-step demotion for Laurenaria—from the CPP central organ to the regional organ of the CPP Central Luzon regional committee [CLRC] for her direct involvement in "Operation Missing Link," the purge of DPAs in Southern Tagalog which she initiated three years ago.

The execution of suspected DPAs started in the first quarter of 1988 following major setbacks and capture of rebel leaders in various parts of the country, particularly in Quezon and Laguna.

The documents were seized by PNP agents from six ranking leaders of the CLRC, led by Antonio Raymundo alias Eman, secretary of CLRC education and propaganda bureau, during a raid at their safehouse in Quezon City Nov. 6.

Among the documents seized was a letter from a certain Jana, believed to be Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, a member of the CPP executive committee and wife of CPP chairman Benito Tiamzon, he said.

The letter, dated June 15, explained to Laurenaria the decision of the executive committee expelling her from the party Central Committee.

Meanwhile, an AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] report said at least 1,700 government soldiers and communist rebels were killed and hundreds seriously wounded in the past 10 months in insurgency- related clashes.

The report did not include the number of civilian casualties caught in crossfires during encounters between AFP/PNP troops and New People's Army guerillas. Sources estimated hundreds of non- combatants were killed since January.

Death toll based on body count for rebels was 1,103 and 613 for AFP/PNP and militiamen in 2,001 encounters from January to Oct. 30.

The AFP report also said communist strength decreased by 5 percent from a force of 17,270 in Jan. 1 to 16,310 guerrillas as of Sept. 30. Military records showed the peak of communist rebel force reached 25,000-strong in July 1, 1988 [as published].

Air Force To Request Funds To Buy Israeli Jets

HK2511103091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Nov 91

[By Rodney Allego of DZRH Unit No. 1]

[Text] The Philippine Air Force will ask for no less than 400 million Philippine pesos next year to make the initial down payment for the 16 fighter jets which are going to be made in Israel. According to Lieutenant Colonel Dindo Dimapilit, Philippine Air Force spokesman, the Air Force is nearing the end of agreement for the purchase of planes which travel twice the speed of sound. Dimapili said that Israel is asking for a 15 percent down payment and 40 percent barter agreement, while the Air Force is prepared to give only a 10 percent down payment and 60 percent barter. However, Dimapilis said that Israel might still give in to their conditions. The Kfir planes will replace the F-5 jets currently being used by the Air Force and will cost the government a total of $200 million.

Thailand

Panel Rejects Purchase of Helicopters From U.S.

BK2211094991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] The Security Screening Committee yesterday rejected an Aviation Department request to purchase six CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopters, saying the utility plans submitted were unclear.

Committee head Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin said the request to purchase the six United States-made helicopters, costing a combined 5,600 million baht, was also rejected because of budget restraints.

The department claimed the aircraft were to be used in search and rescue missions in times of natural disaster and public relief efforts.

Pol Gen Phao said the Army already had six Chinook helicopters standing by for this purpose.

Foreign Minister Asa Returns From Cambodia Trip

BK2311035891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The Thai Government has agreed to provide assistance for Cambodia to repair the highway linking Poipet to Sisophon. The government also presented pharmaceutical products donated by the Thai Red Cross Society to Cambodia. Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin made these remarks while talking to reporters at the Air Force Headquarters airport last night upon his official visit to from Cambodia.

[Beging Asa recording] The Thai Government has decided to help Cambodia repair the highway linking Poipet to Sisophon. Pharmaceutical products donated by the Thai Red Cross Society were also presented to Cambodia during the visit. The Cambodian leaders gave many thanks for the assistance. Significantly, they have stressed on many occasions the role of Thailand toward Cambodia. Two documents were signed during the visit. The first one is a joint communique, which is already known to everyone. The other one is a memorandum of understanding, which is very important for Thailand. The memorandum of understanding was signed by three sides—the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the SNC [Supreme National Council], and the Thai Government. The memorandum of understanding will be implemented as soon as in order to send back the 350,000 Cambodians still remaining in Thailand. It may take some time for preparations for the repatriation. However, we hope that these 350,000 Cambodians will be able to return home before the general election in Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk said that the election would be held in early 1993. He hoped that these Cambodians, who have been sheltered in Thailand for 13 years, will return to their homeland and will take part in the upcoming general election. [end recording]

Joint-Communique Issued

BK2311100991 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Report on the joint communique between Thailand and Cambodia on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin's visit to Cambodia]

[Text] At the invitation of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, or SNC, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid an official visit to Cambodia from 20 to 22 November, 1991.

His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin reiterated Thailand's firm determination to render her utmost support to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia under the leadership of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk with the aim of ensuring full and effective implementation of the agreement on the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict signed in Paris on 23 October, 1991. In this regard, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin expressed the view that the SNC should become operational in Phnom Penh as soon as possible. Both sides stressed the most important role of the United Nations in ensuring a smooth transitional period leading toward free and fair general elections in Cambodia, as well as in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. In this regard, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin pledged Thailand's full cooperation in rendering all facilities and assistance to enable the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC, to successfully carry out its mandate.

Both sides agreed that the repatriation of all Cambodian refugees and displaced persons presently in camps in Thailand was an essential element of the peace agreement and that these Cambodians must be given the opportunity to take part in the general elections and in the rebuilding of the Cambodian nation. In this respect, His Excellency Asa Sarasin expressed Thailand's determination to cooperate in the safe and orderly return of all Cambodian refugees and displaced persons in Thailand to their homeland. Both sides, therefore, expressed their satisfaction that a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Royal Thai Government, the SNC, and the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] relating to the repatriation of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons from Thailand had been signed at the SNC headquarters in Phnom Penh on 21 November, 1991.

To facilitate the return of these Cambodian refugees and displaced persons and the effective carrying out of the task of the UNTAC, as well as the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin, on behalf of the Thai Government, conveyed to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the SNC, Thailand's offer to undertake the repair work of Route 5 between Poipet and Sisophon at an estimated cost of 7 million baht [figure as heard]. His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, on behalf of the SNC and the Cambodian people, accepted the offer and expressed his deep appreciation to the Thai Government. Both sides expressed their firm belief that, besides serving the above purposes, the repair of the Poipet-Sisophon section of Route 5 would also promote people-to-people contacts as well as the flow of goods between the two countries.

In response to the immediate need for relief assistance of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin, during the visit handed over the following items to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, as president of the SNC: 9,000 kilograms of pharmaceutical supplies worth one million baht; 500 kilograms of basic medicines, mosquito nets, and canned food from the Thai Red Cross Society. In addition, His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin informed His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk that Thailand was ready to offer technical cooperation in terms of training courses and study tour for Cambodians in the fields of nursing and health care, agriculture, education, transport and telecommunications, project management, public finance management and banking, trade and industry, civil aviation, and tourism. Regarding the aforementioned technical cooperation, which is to be made available to Cambodian nationals on the priority basis, the Thai Government has allocated a budget of 20.6 million baht in the current fiscal year for this purpose. Both sides agreed to discuss further on how such cooperation could best be worked out to meet the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development needs of Cambodia.

The minister of foreign affairs of Thailand welcomed the view expressed by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the SNC, that Cambodia could benefit from Thailand's experiences in the national and economic development of the country. Thailand, on her part, was committed to do her utmost in rendering support to His Royal Highness and the SNC in the task of rebuilding the Cambodian nation. This was in keeping with the broader foreign policy objective of the Thai Government aimed at promoting an environment of peace and constructive cooperation with all her immediate neighbors. It was also the firm belief of the Thai Government that regional cooperation in economic development would help bring about common economic prosperity and thereby provide a solid foundation for lasting peace and stability in the whole of Southeast Asia.

Both sides welcomed the successful outcome of the visit to Cambodia of His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin, minister of foreign affairs of Thailand. His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin expressed his deep appreciation for the very warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to him and his party by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the members of the SNC, and the people of Cambodia.

His Excellency Mr. Asa Sarasin took the opportunity to extend, on behalf of the Thai Government, an invitation for His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to pay an official visit to Thailand. His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Anan on Restoration of Thai-Cambodian Mountain

BK2411042291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Sisaket—Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said on Friday the Government is quickly restoring Khao Phra Wihan mountain on the Thai-Cambodian border in cooperation with local Khmer officials.

After viewing the deteriorating historical mountain (pictured above) from Pha Mao Edaeng hill in Kantharalak District, Mr Anan said Sisaket provincial authorities had been given 180 million baht to improve waterworks and electricity services in the area of the hill.

"It's very peaceful here. Not messy like Bangkok," the Premier said of the enchanting mountain scene.

Restoration of Khao Phra Wiharn, left unattended for over 30 years, is expected to be finished late next year, the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Anan said the Fine Arts Department would restore the Thai part of Khao Phra Wihan while negotiations between Thai and Cambodian local officials are underway to share the historical and tourist interests of the mountain.

"Restoration will bring value to the mountain and money to Cambodia. Local negotiations and cooperation have been going very well, regardless of the national level," he said.

More than 30 105mm artillery rounds were fired inside Cambodia moments before the Premier and his team climbed Pha Mao Edaeng hill.

Minister Details Technical Assistance to Cambodia

BK2511033891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Thai Government has allocated 20.6 million baht in the current fiscal year to provide technical assistance to Cambodians on a priority basis. Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon says agriculture is a top priority among technical cooperation programs offered to Cambodia by Thailand. The deputy minister, who has just returned from Cambodia, says agricultural output in Cambodia is currently insufficient for local consumption as the population growth rate is on the rise.

He says that Thailand will also provide technical assistance to Cambodia in fisheries and livestock development. A group of Thai officials will be sent to conduct an agricultural survey in Cambodia soon before new technology is brought in to help develop agriculture in that country.

Moreover, he says, training programs will be provided to Cambodians to meet reconstruction and development needs in Cambodia. The deputy minister adds that the Thai private sector will be urged to take part in the economic rehabilitation of the Cambodian nation.

Paper Criticizes Khmer Repatriation Plan Flaws

BK2211034791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Flaws in UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] Khmer Repatriation Plan"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin returns today from Phnom Penh after delivering an aid package worth over Bt [Baht] 100 million. This package includes a Bt70-million fund to help Cambodia improve a 48-km stretch of High-way No 5 linking Poipet and Sisophon, medical supplies assistance, and assistance in the form of technical advice in agriculture, education, transportation, telecommunications, projects management, civil aviation and tourism valued at Bt20 million.

Besides chipping in with the international community in trying to restore the physical infrastructure of war-ravaged Cambodia, another significant outcome of Asa's visit to Phnom Penh was the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the voluntary repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees housed on Thai soil along the Cambodian border. The tripartite memorandum had Asa as a signatory for Thailand, Prince Norodom Sihanouk signing on behalf of the 12-member Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC), and a representative on behalf the Office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This indeed is a laudable move on behalf of Thailand in the light of existing snags in the UNHCR programme for the repatriation of the Cambodians that have developed since the Paris Peace Accords were signed on Oct 23, bringing to an end 13 years of civil war.

It is estimated that the entire repatriation operation will cost US$109 million and the UNHCR needs an estimated US$33 million alone for preparations. To date, however, according to Douglas Stafford, deputy to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, only US$25 million has been pledged by donor countries. The situation demonstrates that donor countries' first priorities ae for the reconstruction of Cambodia rather than the repatriation of the 350,000 Khmers on Thai-territory.

This means that Thailand, previously a frontline state in the Cambodian conflict and now a host for displaced Cambodians who have been in the country for the past 13 yars, will still have to bear most of the burden of sheltering these unfortunate people until an organized UNHCR repatriation gets off the ground—if ever. Although Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, it has nevertheless adhered to the principles of international law by giving refuge to Cambodians since the mass exodus began in 1979.

Hospitality, however, has its limits on the host country and Western donor nations have to realize this point. The UNHCR also has to be aware that its repatriation plan is not the only programme on the Thai-Cambodian border and hence it needs to do away with its blinkered bureaucratic approach to the whole situation. Whether the UN agency acknowledges it or not, there are three existing repatriaiton plans on the Thai-Cambodian border.

The first is an individual or spontaneous plan, which Cambodians in the border camps will carry out on their own accord regardless of UNHCR efforts. For these Khmers, the urge to return home transcends everything else. They are even willing to risk their lives by walking through the minefields to get back to their villages.

The second plan was put forward in October by one of the non-communist warring factions—the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF)—which is urging its people in Site 2 camp in Ta Phraya district of Aranyaprathet to return to the KPNLF "liberated zone" in Cambodia's Thamar Pouk area. The KPNLF has promised Cambodians jobs and land if they follow the resistance commanders back into Cambodia.

The third plan is by the genocidal Khmer Rouge for 44,000 Cambodians under their control in Site 8 camp about 30 kilometres south of Aranyaprathet. Aid workers have confirmed that the radical communists have cut a road through the juncle linking the camp with Khao Din in the southeastern corner of Cambodia. Though Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan denies that Cambodians in Site 8 would be resettled in Khao Din against ther will, aid workers believe otherwise. Coercion and threats together with an enticement of two hectares of land in Cambodia for each family have been used to force the Cambodians to leave Thailand.

To date the only thing that has been finalized with regard to the UNHCR repatriation programme is the pre-registration interviews. Sites in Cambodia to be used as reception centres for the Khmer returnees have yet to be identified by the UN agency, and plans to clear the hundreds of thousands of land-mines to pave the way for repatriation have still not been implemented. The UNHCR still seems unclear about who exactly will shoulder the responsibility of clearing the mines despite an agreement in Paris that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) will have the mandate for doing so. In reality, this mandate for UNTAC is ridiculous. UNHCR begins its repatriation in March but UNTAC will only move into Cambodia in August next year. So in the interim period between March and August next year, Khmers will be moved into Cambodia under an organized programme but at the risk of being blown to pieces by land-mines. Under the present circumstance, it seems the UNHCR repatriation programme is not the best plan for the 350,000 Cambodians on Thai soil.

Thailand's offer to improve part of Highway No 5 between Poipet and Sisophon is indeed timely because it is through this route that many Cambodians will be repatriated. The Thai military has also offered its services to clear the land-mines here and this is welcome because it shows a significant change in the Thai military's attitude towards Cambodia. Clearly, Thailand is not just going to wash its hands of the Khmer problem. The UN agencies should take advantage of this generous stance by Bangkok, as well as other opportunities that arise, instead of bogging themselves down with tonnes of red tape.

Anan Inaugurates Construction of Thai-Lao Bridge

BK2411095591 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Relations between Thailand and Laos has reached another stage with the inauguration of the construction of the Nong Khai-Vientiane Bridge across the Mekong River this morning. Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, and Neal Blewett, Australian minister for trade and overseas development, presided over the ceremony amidst a large jubilant crowd from both Thailand and Laos. Prime Minister Anan delivered a speech, saying that this will be another bridge of historic significance in the world. Besides being the first linking Thailand and Laos, which together have depended on the Mekong River as their lifeline from time immemorial, the project also involves the cooperation of three parties—Thailand, Laos, and Australia. He said that communications between Thailand and Laos will become much more convenient after this bridge is completed.

[Begin Anan recording] The person who initiated the construction of this bridge is farsighted since its benefits will be innumerable. It will facilitate contact and visits between the peoples of Thailand and Laos who are relatives and close friends. The bridge will also benefit other peoples who reside in Thailand or Laos. Its route will facilitate and promote exchanges in trade, investment, tourism, as well as other forms of economic, social, and cultural activities in the interest of the peoples of both countries.

Your Excellency Khamtai Siphandon, Your Excellency Neal Blewett: The Thai Government attaches great importance to the promotion of an atmosphere of peace in Southeast Asia. It has constructively been forging better relations with all its neighbors in the area. Relations between Thailand and Laos have developed to a point of satisfaction with exchanges of visits at all levels. Furthermore, a mechanism for cooperation such as the Joint Thai-Lao Commission, which held its first meeting in October this year, has been set up. This inauguration marks another step in the concrete development of

Thai-Lao relations. The bridge will link Laos with Thailand and also the rest of Southeast Asia. [end recording]

Meets With Lao Premier

BK2411151591 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, the prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Australian minister for trade and overseas development this morning presided over the inauguration of the construction of the Nong Khai-Vientiane Bridge across the Mekong river. The prime minister and his party also crossed over to Vientiane for lunch before returning to Bangkok.

Before leaving Udon Thani Province for Bangkok this afternoon, the prime minister held a news briefing at the 23d Wing Command in Udon Thani. He said there was nothing much in the discussion he had with the Lao prime minister. They mainly discussed bilateral relations, noting the improvements, and expressed their desire to promote future ties. They agreed that each side should notify the other of problems which may arise in order to find remedies. The Lao prime minister will visit Thailand on 6 December.

On Laos' request for a relaxation of tariffs and to allow more goods into Thailand, the prime minister said Thailand has agreed to allow the entry of a few more items. He said the Finance Ministry will also study the possibility of a tariff adjustment. Asked about the economic impact of the friendship bridge once it is completed, the prime minister said he believed the economic development would be gradual. Many in the private sector have already expressed an interest in the joint investment. But the prime minister stressed that the interests of both parties must considered. On the widespread goods and narcotics smuggling along the long Thai-Laotian border, the prime minister said the problem will be tackled by the Thai-Lao Joint Commission which meets every year, and also by the Thai-Lao Border Committee which is scheduled to meet soon.

On the possibility of building more bridges across the Mekong River in Mukdahan and Nakhon Phanom Provinces, the prime minister said several billion baht is needed to build a bridge. Such a project must, therefore, be carefully assessed to see if it is worthwhile and if it suits the region's economy. He said the construction of the Nong Khai-Vientiane Bridge will be completed in March 1994. The bridge will facilitate contact and communications between the two sides. The prime minister believes it will help improve the economy of Thai border provinces.

Asked about Thailand's position on a joint investment to build a hydroelectric dam in Laos, Prime Minister Anan said the agencies concerned are studying the feasibility of the project for Thailand, how much it could benefit from the electricity produced, and whether the prices would be fair. He said Thailand would go ahead with it if study yields positive results.

Human Rights Groups Protest E. Timor Massacre

BK2211024991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 8

[Text] Representatives of human rights' groups in Thailand yesterday condemned the recent massacre of innocent people in East Timor by Indonesian forces.

The letter of condemnation which was endorsed by 18 human rights' groups was handed over to Minister Counsellor Husny Sunkar of the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok yesterday.

The groups said the shooting of innocent and unarmed civilians in Dili, the capital city of East Timor, on November 12 by Indonesian forces was totally unprovoked.

They also charged that since the occupation of East Timor in 1976 by the Indonesian military, at least 200,000 inhabitants have keen killed.

The human rights groups demanded a full and factual account by the Indonesian Government of the massacre; that those responsible will be prosecuted and punished; immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in East Timor; and the right to self-determination by the people of East Timor.

Anti-Patents Movement Issues 'White Paper'

BK2111025391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] The anti-patents campaign, supported by seven non-government organisations, has released a "white paper" urging the National Legislative Assembly to review or drop some provisions under the draft Patent Act amendment bill.

They said that without any revision of the draft, which passed its first reading last week, Thais would be adversely affected, especially the poor.

The campaign against aspects of the draft comprises the Rural Doctors' Club, the Coordinating Committee for Primary Care linking Thai NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], the Drug Study Group, public hospital doctors, the Federation of Medical Science Students' Club, the Federation of Pharmaceutical Students and the Students' Federation of Thailand.

At a press conference yesterday, campaign chairman Prida Tae-arak strongly attacked the Government for yielding to United States' pressure to protect pharmaceutical products. Speakers claimed the Bill would affect the poor drastically because of high prices of drugs.

He said the Government does not have to pass the bill quickly and it should wait until there was consensus on patents during talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Doctor Prida urged assembly members to drop the bill during the second or third readings to show a responsible attitude. The assembly should organise a public hearing to help determine whether or not the bill should be passed.

The Government must speed up development of the pharmaceutical industry, especially research and development to create national self-reliance as well as protect consumers from any unscrupulous pharmaceutical producers.

In a related development, the Study Group on Intellectual Property Rights of Chulalongkon's Social Research Institue released a white paper attacking the draft.

Chulalongkon University Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science professor, Dr Chiraphon Limpananon, said several provisions in the draft should be amended to ensure that when it takes effect Thai consumers and the poor would not be hurt.

The institute urged the assembly to improve some provisions of the draft, especially the 180-day grace period and its compulsory licensing provisions.

She complained that some provisions of the draft have been designed to meet the US demand, without taking into account the impact on Thais, such as lifting Section 77 of the Patent Act, which allowed the Government to give licences to others if a patent-holder failed to import or produce a drug.

Party Leader Says NPKC 'Dictatorial' on Draft

BK2211022991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai yesterday accused the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] of being dictatorial in retaining the controversial clause in Article 239 of the draft constitution giving senators a say in the selection of the next prime minister.

"This is dictatorial," he said bluntly.

"How can appointed members be given the right to select the premier or play a part in government? The senators' role should be limited to scrutinising bills, not playing at being the government," he said.

Mr Chuan said the NPKC could prove its respect for democracy by withholding support for the Constitution in its final reading.

He said the 270 senators appointed by the NPKC to take part in the next parliament would play a key role in forming the next government.

This meant political parties could have many MPs but still be left in opposition if they did not support the senators' choice of a premier.

Constitution Screening Committee member Col Thinaphan Nakhata, a close associate of army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, defended the retention of Article 239, saying economic prosperity depended on political stability and this was best achieved through a unified parliament which gave senators more power.

Mr Chuan rejected this argument however, saying those who administer power should come from the people, "not from nowhere. Anyone wanting to exercise power should receive the mandate of the people."

He said it was wrong to impose political stability by organising a group of people who would simply support the government in order to create unity.

"They should come through the democratic process," he said.

The former deputy prime minister said he could not understand why the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] had voted in favour of the clause making the Senate President the Parliamentary President.

During Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's Administration when the parliament voted unanimously in 1989 to amend the Constitution to have the House speaker named Parliamentary President, Mr Chuan said many senators including Osot Kosin, the chairman of the Constitution Screening Committee, supported the amendment giving a combined 496 votes for the change.

He said he could not understand why the NLA changed its position on this issue making the Senate President the Parliamentary President with the authority to nominate the premier.

He said it would disgrace the country if the NLA passed the Constitution in its final reading.

The former Trang MP said the Constitution made elections only a matter of form as the people would have no power and the NPKC- appointed senators would totally control the next government.

It is quite clear the NPKC still does not want to give the people any power," he said.

Mr. Chuan said the Constitution did not respond to current world thinking and would have a major impact on the country's economic development.

He predicted that the Constitution would only have a very short life.

Anan Declines Anti-Draft Movement Invitation

BK2311013391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday declined an invitation from a politician to join the pro-democracy movement campaigning against the draft Constitution, saying that he is not free to do so.

Responding to a call from New Aspiration Party member Chaturon Chaisaeng urging him to take part in the campaign, the Prime Minister said: "I am governed by the post of premier. I do not have that much freedom."

Mr Anan had ealier criticised the draft Constitution's provisional clauses which give the Senate power almost equal to that of the House of Representatives and which allows permanent government officials to hold political posts concurrently.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister said he was disappointed after the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] passed its second reading of the draft Constitution with the much-opposed provisions left almost intact.

Mr Anan said his Government had provided people with all the opportunities for free expression and the right to stage political gatherings.

As for the mass rally against the draft charter's controversial clauses at Royal Plaza two days ago, the Prime Minister thanked those who attended for not causing any unrest.

"The statements may be acrimonious, but only in words. However, it was not aimed against Thai society," he said.

Asked about the effects of the draft charter on the economy and the country's reputation in the world community if it is endoresed by the NLA in the third reading, Mr Anan said any decision reached by the majority must be respected.

"Society can exist only when rules are abided by. And if everybody means it when he says he loves democracy, he has to respect the rules," he said.

Chaturon said Mr Anan's statement after the passage in the second reading of the draft constitution—"I am disappointed"—reflected the true feeling of the Thai people in the entire country.

"I'd like to call on the Premier to join us in the campaign. If he agrees, it will be very beneficial to the country," Mr Chaturon said.

"He should stop being afraid of the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] or any other person. His participation in the campaign may affect his job as prime minister, but I am confident Mr Anan will give the national interest his first priority," Mr Chaturon said.

NPKC advisory chairman Bunchana Atthanakon said any remarks from the Premier would bear weight because he had avoided making any comments on the issue before.

"He finally commented on it and I am sure that people listened to it," Mr Bunchana said.

He said he believes that here was still a chance the draft would be changed.

Assembly Head Rules Out Constitution Revision

BK2411012491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Text] National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin yesterdayd ruled out the possibility of the draft constitution being revised when the legislature meets tomorrow. The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, is gearing up preparations for the election amidst mounting condemnation of the draft.

Ukrit urged the opponents of the draft to consider the "urgency" of passing the constitution and holding the election as soon as possible, saying that undersirable elements could be amended afterwards.

The scrutinizing of the draft in the second reading was completed last week and the only thing left to be done tomorrow is to polish its language, he said.

The president of the appointed legislature refused to predict whether the draft would pass its final hurdle on Dec 7, saying that there were still many more days to go before the vote is taken after the third reading of the draft. However, he added he was optimistic that things would proceed as planned.

He remarks was taken as an indication that the National Peacekeeping Council would not yield to the demand for future amendments to the draft on Monday.

The preparations for the election were also in full swing. The Interior Ministry has moved swiftly to try to have the Juridical Council consider the draft election bill and the draft amendment to then Political Party Act tomorrow. It also expects the Cabinet to deliberate the two drafts on Tuesday, informed sources said.

And if the Interior Ministry has its way, the Cabinet would fix the election for March 11 and announce it a national holiday, the sources said.

The draft Election Bill is composed of about 20 articles. Changes were made under seven or eight articles, including the increase in the punishment terms for vote buying from 1-5 years in jail to 1-10 years imprisonment. Under the tough bill, the candidates ruled guilty of buying votes would also be barred from standing for election from 1-10 years depending on the gravity of the offences.

Candidates would also be prohibited from distributing gifts during their election campaigns, according to the draft.

Government officials found involved in such practices would also face stiffer disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of being sacked. Under the draft, they could also face criminal charges and be prosecuted under Article 127 of the Criminal Code.

The candidates would also be required to deposit Bt [bhat] 10,000 with the authorities, a twofold increase from Bt5,000 under the previous Election Act.

The sources said that Interior Ministry officials have recommended possible dates for the election for Interior Minister Gen Itsarapong Nunphakdi to approve, March 11 which is Wednesday or March 8 or March 15 which fail on Sundays. The officials recommended March 11 because the country's first election was held on a Wednesday in 1932.

If the Cabinet sets March 11 as the polling day, it would also be asked to declare it a national holiday, the sources said.

The sources added that the draft bill on the election and amendment to the Political Parties Act should pass the National Assembly and be announced around Dec 20.

The Interior Ministry, the sources said, had instructed all provincial administrations and districts to ready themselves for the election.

The moves came as the political parties, student groups, academics, labor and non-governmental organizations groups, stepped up their campaign against the provisional clauses in which 270 senators would be appointed by the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council with the powers to participate in the selection and the ouster of the prime minister and the deliberation of virtually all crucial legislations, including budget bills, during the four-year interim period.

To dramatize their campaign, about 500 students led by the Students Federation of Thailand also marched from the campus of Thammasat University, known as Lan Pho, where they began a prolonged rally last Thursday, to Sanam Luang apparently to try to expand the campaign rally. Wearing black headbands, the students vowed to dig in at Sanam Luang until their goals had been achieved.

In another development, the executive committees of the Thammasat University Students Organization which were elected between 1982 and 1990, the Saeng Tham Students Party and the Pracha Tham Group of the same university yesterday also came up with a joint statement denouncing what they described as the dictatorial draft charter designed to pave the way for Chunlachomklao Military Academy Class Five officers to hang on to their powers.

In the strongly worded statement, the former Thammasat student leaders called on students, labourers, businessmen and people from all walks of life to join the campaign against the charter. They singled out the permanent clause making the Senate speaker the Parliament president and the temporary clauses on the size and the powers of the Senate as undemocratic elements.

The former student leaders also urged Class Five group to "abandon their political roles."

Former prime minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot, meanwhile, yesterday said he was disappointed in Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun for having expressed his disappointment in the details of the draft charter without having made such a feeling into action from the very beginning.

"I used to adore this premier (Anan) but no I will say I am disappointed in him," said Khurkit.

Khurkit said it is also hard for him to believe in Anan's earlier remarks that he will not enter politics.

Disputed Cabinet Article Dropped From Draft

BK2211042391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 91 p A3

[Text) The National Legislative Assembly yesterday decided to drop from the draft constitution an article which would bar Cabinet members from carrying out their parliamentary responsibilities.

The decision came after heated debate about Article 175, and the failure of the charter review panel and the constitution drafting committee to explain its usefulness.

Several assembly members criticized the article during the third day of the second reading debate of the draft constitution.

Niphon Phomphan, a former Democratic MP, said the article ran counter to democratic principles.

The drafting committee might want to separate the legislature from the administrative branch by including the article in the draft, he said.

But a clear-cut line could not be drawn to separate the two branches so the article was of no use, Siphon said.

He added that the article would not be able to deter vote-buying because candidates who bought their way to the House of Representatives would be more interested in becoming Cabinet members.

Prakit Phatthanakun, a former Prachakon Thai MP, said the article would jeopardize the stability of an elected government.

The government could be easily overthrown by the opposition if Cabinet members could not perform their duties as MPs, especially in a no-confidence debate against the administration, Prakit said.

Osot Kosin, chairman of the review panel, later told the assembly the article was the idea of the drafting committee and the scrutiny panel had not touched the article.

"I myself do not know the article's goal," Osot said.

Thinnaphan Nakhasak, a member of the constitution-drafting committee, then said the article was included to deter vote-buying. But he admitted that in practice the article would not be able to prevent this.

Assembly Continues Draft Constitution Debates

BK2511065791 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] National Legislative Assembly [NLA] President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin chaired a meeting of the NLA this morning to consider the wording of the draft constitution which the NLA had earlier passed in the second reading. The president proposed that today's meeting should sum up the entire draft constitution, article by article, and because the wording of the draft should be altered in the interest of the country at large, the Draft Constitution Scrutinizing Committee in the second reading could propose alterations. The meeting concurred with the president's proposal.

The meeting then deliberated the draft constitution article by article and made no major changes in any of the 223 articles. After completion of the deliberation, Osot Kosin, chairman of the Draft Constitution Scrutinizing Committee in the second reading, proposed alterations of the following articles:

Article 125, concerning the protective privileges of members of parliament in debates which are covered by television, radio, or any reporting media, the term—or any reporting media—is to be removed. The same term also is to be removed from Article 126.

Osot noted that his committee's meeting this morning resolved to alter Article 159, clause 2, from the previous stipulation which empowers the parliament president to countersign the decree appointing the prime minister, to empower the president of the House of Representatives to countersign the decree instead.

According to Osot, with regard to Article 219 in the provisional clauses, which pertains to the five types of authority of the senators to sit in the joint session of parliament, the committee resolved to remove portions one, two, and four of the article. Article 219 (one) concerns senators joining the members of the House of Representatives [MP's] in the selection of the prime minister. Article 219 (two) concerns senators joining the MP's in consideration of the draft annual budget, and article 219 (four) concerns their sitting with the MP's in consideration of important bills dealing with national security, the monarchy, or the national economy. In sum, in Article 219 the senators sit in joint meetings with the MP's in the consideration of convening a no-confidence debate—this is in the article's section (three)—and the consideration of a royal decree, which is covered in the article's section (five).

The NLA president concluded by saying that the deliberation of the draft constitution in the second reading has been completed. He said the third reading of the draft constitution will be convened on 7 December at 0930 and that attendance required at that meeting is at least three quarters of the entire 288 members, or 216. A minimum of two-thirds of the attendance, or 192, is required for promulgation of the constitution. Attendants will be called to vote in alphabetical order. The meeting is expected to be completed within one hour.

Today's meeting ended at 1045.

Controversial Military Clauses Scrapped

BK2511060491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 25 (AFP)—Controversial clauses in Thailand's new constitution that gave sweeping powers to the military have been scrapped after a special constitution committee meeting here Monday.

The decision to drop the clauses came as massive nationwide protests over the planned constitution was beginning to snowball, threatening a direct confrontation with the junta.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, who was appointed by the military, last week added his voice to the protests, objecting to the control given to the armed services over any future elected government.

Centre of the row was the vast powers to be given to the 270-member non-elected Senate.

Originally it had been planned to give the senate, whose members are appointed by the military, a key role in appointing the prime minister as well as the right to take part in crucial parliamentary debates such as finance.

But the the groundswell of public opinion began to grow, with political parties, academics and students accusing the junta, which seized power in a bloodless coup in February, of attempting to retain power.

The decision to scrap such plans and return the majority of power to parliament is seen by analysts here as a major climb-down by the military.

"Certainly, on the surface at least, this is a dramatic turn around by the military. Today's decision should defuse the growing risk of confrontation that has been building up since the proposed constitution was first announced," said one political analyst.

The constitution must now go through its third and final reading early next month before becoming law.

The junta has promised elections by April next year but has insisted that a contitution must be in place before elections are held.

Prime Minister Satisfied With Changes in Draft

BK2511065491 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] After a meeting of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] to review the draft constitution in its second reading at the Parliament this morning, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said he was satisfied with the changes made in the draft constitution in today's meeting and believed that the revised draft could be acceptable. He said, despite the fact that there still are some points that he cannot agree with, if ones take a look at the draft as a whole, and judging from the present situation, it can be said to be a suitable draft.

The prime minister said that the implementation of Article 108 in today's meeting has had a positive effect. It has made it possible to make changes in the content of the draft constitution. What is important is that the Senate's power has been reduced, Anan pointed out.

The prime minister went on to say that the NLA may have listened to the opinion of the public, who have been sincerely opposing the draft constitution. This can be regarded as a good sign, Anan remarked.

On the proposal put forward by Major General M.R. Khukrit Pramot of having the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] hold discussion with political parties, the prime minister said the NLA's deliberation of the draft constitution in its second reading has been completed, if there is to be any further discussion, it would have nothing to do with the prime minister.

Army Chief Says Assembly Heeded Public Opinion

BK2511135591 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander in chief, talked to reporters this afternoon. Asked whether the decision of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] to reduce the power of senators in the draft constitution will help ease political pressure, he said that the NLA president would make a statement on this issue tonight. Asked whether the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] will make a statement on this issue, the Army commander in chief said that the NPKC had no statement to make because the NPKC had not been involved in this issue. Consideration of the draft constitution is up to the NLA members. Furthermore, the NLA members listened to the opinion of the majority of the people. Asked whether or not maintaining some power for the senators will be good, he replied that some power for the senators is to be maintained because the Constitution Scrutiny Committee intends to enable the next government to be more stable and stronger.

Interior Minister Praises Compromise on Draft

BK2511144191 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has answered questions by reporters on his opinion over changes made to the draft constitution. He said that in his opinion it was good that everyone concerned had made a compromise. This will be an important strength in helping administer national affairs. On how far the draft constitution could be amended, he said that political parties had to accept this draft so that we could achieve our final goal—to have a permanent government.

Asked whether or not the reduction of power for senators will ease opposition trends, General Itsaraphong said he did not think that there would be any opposition. The discussions during today's meeting were of interest to all parties concerned. Everybody fully understood them. It has nothing to do with the opposition trends. Regarding the soldiers' stand, General Itsaraphong said that his stand is similar to that stated by the Army commander in chief—not playing politics and returning to the barracks to carry out his duty as deputy commander in chief only as soon as possible.

Daily on Preference for 'Having A Constitution'

BK2211142991 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 22 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Better To Have Than Not Have a Constitution"]

[Text] Whatever the case, the draft constitution, which has been widely discussed both inside and outside the parliament—particularly the question of which articles are democratic and undemocratic—will finally be passed by the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] in its second reading.

Argument between those who are satisfied and dissatisfied with the draft constitution will continue, with each side upholding its own reasons. Those disagreeing with the draft will find the article concerning appoinment of senators to be a bitter pill. Regarding the power of the Senate, there has been criticism that the draft constitution is aimed at paving the way for the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] to maintain power. Opposing groups hold that senators should not be given power equal with members of the House of Representatives, who are elected by the people. On this point even Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has expressed skepticism. He has said that according to the principles of the constitution, the power of non-elected members must be less than that of elected members of Parliament. This is the basic principle in politics and administration.

The prime minister's remark is among hundreds of thousands of opinions which disagree with the NLA. The articles concerning the appointment and powers of senators have been changed by the draft constitution scrutinizing committee from the committee's original draft. On this, a person who has suffered disappointment is Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, chairman of the 20-member constitution drafting committee. For several months the committee has exerted much time and effort to draft what it believes is the best democratic constitution suitable for Thailand. Anyway, the draft has been revised by the draft constitution scrutinizing committee, whose opinions differ from those of the constitution drafting committee. The disgusted deputy prime minister, Michai Ruchuphan, has said: "Nearly all my draft constitution was cut, only the no-good points remain."

Under such circumstances where the draft constitution has passed the second reading by the NLA, there is nothing the people can do now except continue opposition, or fast in protest, until the deliberations over the third reading. No one can guarantee that there will not be a shocking incident in which the parliament fails to pass the draft constitution in its third and final reading. This has, however, been seen as very unlikely to happen. This is because once it passes the second reading, it will naturally sail through the third reading. If bets were placed on this, the odds would be 10 to one for the draft blueprint to pass the final reading. That means Thailand will have its 15th Constitution, after the previous 14 were thrown away.

No matter that the present draft constitution will satisfy some and dissatisfy others; it will be the principal law leading to a general election and the formation of a government. The new government may comprise a prime minister and a cabinet who come through the general election channel, or the prime minister and other cabinet members proposed by the Senate and jointly approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Whichever way the government will be formed, it will still be under the principle of democracy. Whether it will be 100 percent or 50 percent democracy is another matter.

Therefore, to have a constitution that may not satisfy someone is better than not having a constitution at all. Let us think of an old Thai saying: When in hard times even a wildflower can be used to decorate your hair. At least we can feel comfortable for the time being, looking forward to the future when this constitution may be torn up and replaced by a new one.

Ramifications of Constitution Changes Viewed

BK2411042591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 91 p B1

[From the "Political Desk"]

[Text] A tactical or an actual retreat, Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's surprise pledge not to become the next prime minister, followed by the deletion of some highly controversial elements from the draft constitution last week, set the stage for a new political ballgame which could have far-reaching ramifications.

The backdown came after an outcry against what was widely regarded as attempts to retain the absolute power of the coup party following the expiry of the present transititonal Constitution and the subsequent general election. On the one hand the retreat seemed to be the direct result of the public resentment against the retention of the military power after the poll.

But the dramatic twists and turns to the draft before the second-reading adoption of the charter by the National Assembly indicated that internal problems had also came into play.

After what has been said and done, the ad hoc commitee scrutinizing the draft charter could hardly defend its fickleness. At first the panel chaired by Osot Kosin replaced a compromise electoral system proposed by the charter drafting commitee with the party-slate system which was championed by Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and his supporters in the Samakkhitham Party.

The decision drew strong criticism, being interpreted as a move to give the pro-military party a competitive edge over its rivals in the next election and therefore allowing the NPKC to retain its powers after the election. But the panel abruptly replaced the party-slate system with a previous electoral model in which a voter can pick individual candidates from different parties in three-MP constituencies. But under the draft drawn by Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan's drafting committee, the voter was to cast his ballot for a larger constituency with four to seven candidates.

If the right-about-turn was particularly aimed at pacifying the growing public opposition, then there was no valid reason for the decision by the committee to increase the size of the Senate under the provisional clauses from 270 to 360, a move which would precipitate more public opposition than the party-slate system. The decisions to drop the party-slate system and increase the size of the Senate to the same level of the elected House were reportedly made on the same day and at the same meeting.

The move also reflected how little Suchinda trusted MPs, particularly the parties which have made it appear that they would support the supreme commander as the next prime minister. Apart from the Samakkhitham Party sponsored by top air force men, the Chat Thai Party's leading figures also indicated that they would support the military after the election. Chat Thai's senior men also elected an air force officer, ACM Sombun Rahong as their new leader, succeeding former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, who announced his retirement from politics following the coup.

What has sparked the suspicions between the two top military officers in the NPKC [National Peace-Keeping

Council] is unclear. But Kaset had previously made public his stand that he would be ready to quit the Air Force to become prime minsiter if Suchinda declined the offer after the poll. Kaset had also voiced opposition to the controversial provisional clause allowing permanent officials to take up political posts while Suchinda reportedly advocatd the idea in part because of his distrust of politicians.

Politically speaking, the abrupt deletion of the party-slate system from the draft was Suchinda's display of his strength over the air force chief. Following behind-the-scenes arms-twisting, Kaset apparently conceded to Suchinda's insistence that both of them should not aspire to the top administrative post after the election.

Suchinda's announcement can be seen in two contexts.

On the one hand, the vow that neither he nor Kaset would become prime minister, coupled with the deletion of the clause that permanent officials could become Cabinet members was clearly a move to defuse a potentially explosive situation on the eve of the National Assembly's special sitting to approve the draft in the second reading.

On the other, his mention of Kaset also indicated that he wanted the air force chief to commit himself publicly not to be in the race. The air force chief was silent during the announcement but confirmed it later.

An interesting theory has also been brought into the picture in the wake of the political shenanigans—Suchinda has probably been aware that he could not ascend to the top executive post after the poll because he would otherwise be accused of harbouring political ambitions in staging the Feb 23 coup—an accusation which has been gaining weight in the past eight months due to the NPKC's failure to achieve its stated goal of purging corrupt politicians.

Perhaps, according to the theory, the army chief had also toyed with the option of backing a non-partisan figure with a civilian face as the next prime minister simply because he was unable to take over the helm himself.

If that was the case, Suchinda was probably aware that his promise not to accept the premiership on his own would play into Kaset's hands. Kaset has been critical of interim Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, who is thought to be one of Suchinda's possible choices, and has said that he would vie for the premiership if the army chief withdrew from the race.

The solution was to force Kaset to sit side-by-side with him by announcing that neither of them would accept the premiership, according to the theory, which was substantiated by the eventual adoption of the previous electoral system by the National Assembly. Already, this turn of events has come as a heavy blow to Samakkhitham whose former MPs were said to be defecting to their former or other parties as a result.

However, there can be no denying the fact that the NPKC was concerned over growing public sentiment against the military and that the concessions, including the reduction of the Senate size back to 270, were aimed at defusing a political timebomb.

Despite the moves, the NPKC would still clearly have a big say in influencing the post-election politics under the provisional clauses which empowers it to select the 270 senators and allow them to participate in the selection of the new prime minister, join in a no-confidence voting, and share the MPs' power to decide on the fate of the budget bill and other important legislations.

In this light, many believe that the military had the scrutinizing committee come up with the first tough draft so that it would be watered down to pacify public discontent.

Whatever has been on the mind of the military and barring unforeseen variables, Suchinda's moves last week set a new political ballgame into motion and the political repercussions could well be felt for the next four years, during the charter's transitional period.

For one thing, Suchinda's vow that neither he nor Kaset would accept the premiership indicate his thinking that the person who becomes the next prime minister must be a civilian.

To offset the new prime minister's weak point that he could be a non-MP and seen as a possible frontman for the military, Suchinda would predictably be forced to pick not only a civilian but also a competent, qualified hand who must be welcomed by the general public.

There was no mention of anybody as the leading candidate, but in the words of a veteran politician, the "shadow" of the next prime minister can be now vaguely seen.

Interim Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, who is said to have been handpicked by Suchinda for the stop-gap top executive post last February, downplayed the speculation that he might be among the candidates. He said his stand had never changed. His most recent statement on the issue was "If I can help it, I would not want to see myself in the race for the premiership."

The provisional clauses effectively deprived New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's chance to become the next prime minister and could even leave the party in the opposition corner.

The chance of other leading politicians, particularly Democrat leader Chuan Likphai and Phalang Tham leader Chamlong Simuang, also grew slim. After all it is impossible for any of the major parties to sweep up to half of the 360-MP House, not to mention garnering as many as 270 seats. The Samakkhitham, the Chat Thai and the Social Action parties, meanwhile, have avoided launching broadsides against the NPKC and would be predictably be ready to jump on the bandwagon after the election.

Against this backdrop the anti-military alliance comprising Phalang Tham, Democrat, NAP and Solidarity parties would be put to a severe test after the election. Variables include the image of the new prime minister to be picked by the Senate and the political stability of the new government.

Vietnam

Joint-Normalization Talks With U.S. Continue

BK2311115391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Acting on the agreement made in Paris on 23 October 1991 between Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, on 21 November in New York, Le Mai, Vietnamese deputy foreign minister and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs began official talks on the modalities and directly related issues concerning the normalization of bilateral relations.

The Vietnamese side affirmed that the normalization of relations between the two countries on the basis of equality, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and unconditionally conforms with the interest of the two peoples and peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

The two sides also dealt with a number of issues including the issue of consultation and property protection, humanitarian issues, and followup steps toward a full normalization of relations between the two countries.

On the issue of American servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese side maintained that this is a humanitarian issue. Vietnam has been cooperating with the U.S. to solve this issue in the sphere of humanity. The U.S. side welcomed Vietnam's cooperation. They also agreed on some matters to promote the settlement of humanitarian issues in the coming period, thus creating mutual understanding between the two countries.

They agreed to set up a working group led by Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnamese UN delegation and the deputy assistant to the U.S. secretary of state. The working group will continue to discuss thoses issues that have already been raised.

Both sides also agreed to organize a number of talks at the expert level in the coming period. The two sides agreed that the talks were successful and constructive, and agreed to meet again at the deputy minister of foreign affairs level at a yet to be determined date.

Commentary Notes 'New Page' in Foreign Relations

BK2511100291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Recent developments mark a new page in the relations between Vietnam and other countries in the world, especially nations in Southeast Asia. Many countries have changed their policies toward Vietnam. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai on Thursday, 21 November, met Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State Richard Solomon and had further discussion on the process of the mormalization of the Vietnam-U.S. relations.

Earlier, the U.S. has abolished the ban on American tourists to Vietnam. Meanwhile, following the visit by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to Singapore in October, the country decided to lift its embargo against Vietnam. Today, with these significant development, economic, and commercial activities between Vietnam and other countries have been on the rise.

Economic and commercial delegations from Australia, Japan, Britain, and the Federal Republic of Germany have come to Vietnam. With the current rate of trade relations between Vietnam and Japan, the two countries hope to reach $1 billion of trade this year. Japan has become the biggest trade partner of Vietnam.

Australia is the first country that lifted its trade embargo against Vietnam and promised direct bilateral aid to Vietnam. To implement this plan, the Australian Government has sent Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett to Vietnam together with 30 businessmen. This has created fine prospect for Vietnamese-Australian relations and made Australia Vietnam's second biggest investor in Vietnam.

For its part, Singapore is now reconsidering its trade policy toward Vietnam. A diplomatic delegation from Singapore is due to visit Vietnam in December to discuss the establishment of a Singapore embassy in Vietnam. The trade volume between the two countries has reached from $300-$400 million. It is hoped that with the removal of the political barrier between the two countries, trade figures will be increased considerably.

The recent period has also witnessed positive developments in Sino-Vietnamese economic ties. In addition, the trade volume between Vietnam and Hong Kong has reached a figure from $200-$300 million. The airline Cathay Pacific has started flights between Hong Kong and Vietnam.

South Korea has also conducted economic activities in Vietnam, quickly involving major companies such as Dawoo, Gold Star, and Samsung.

Thailand has had intensive economic activities in Vietnam. Thailand investment commission No. 1, in charge of foreign investment, has affirmed that it will support more companies to invest in Vietnam.

Noteworthy is that Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and the Federal Republic of Germany have also invested $500 million in Vietnam, especially in oil extraction. The Secretary of State for Energy of Great Britain has recently visited Vietnam and affirmed that Britain would invest $10 billion in Vietnam for oil and gas prospection. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will be coming to Vietnam in the next few days to initiate a new stage of French- Vietnamese cooperation.

Despite some difficulties in doing business in Vietnam, many countries want to develop cooperative economic relations with Vietnam. These developments are proofs of the new period in trade and economic relations between Vietnam and the world at large.

Call To Free Political Prisoners 'Dismissed'

BK2311151291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] HANOI, Nov 23 (AFP)—Vietnam dismissed Saturday a call from the Washington-based human rights group Asia Watch to free several political prisoners, saying their treatment was an "internal affair."

"Imposing penalties in line with Vietnamese law for Vietnamese citizens who break the law is completely normal and is an internal affair," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"Vietnam has settled, is settling and will settle this question in line with its humanitarian tradition and policy."

Asia Watch expressed concern Thursday over the prosecution of Father Nguyen Dan Que, a Catholic priest whom it said was arrested in June 1990 after he appealed to the government to adopt democratic reforms and accept human rights.

Que was accused in a legal journal of "activities aimed at overthrowing the People's Government," a crime that carries the death penalty, Asia Watch said, adding that his trial was due to start in the next few days.

Two other Vietnamese, constitutional law specialist Doan Than Liem and business consultant Do Ngoc Long, are facing prosecution on charges of spying for American businessman Michael Morrow, the group said.

Asia Watch welcomed, meanwhile, the recent release of four other prisoners, including dissident writer Duong Thu Huong and novelist Doan Quoc Sy.

Huong was released on Wednesday after authorities decided to exempt her from criminal prosecution, the foreign ministry spokesman said. Hong had been charged with activities harmful to national security.

He denied rumors circulating among Vietnamese exiles in Paris that the outspoken writer had rejected the gesture of clemency and refused to leave detention without being exonerated.

"She has gone home," the spokesman said. His statement was verified by an independent Vietnamese source.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives for Visit

BK2511054291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] At the invitation of the SRV Government, His Excellency Roland Dumas, foreign minister of the Republic of France, arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on 24 November for an official visit to Vietnam.

On hand to welcome him at the Tan Son Nhat Airport were Pham Thai Dich, deputy chairman of Ho Chi Minh City people's committee; Vu Hac Bong, director of the city foreign affairs office, and (Claude Andrely), French consul general in Ho Chi Minh City.

On the afternoon of the same day, Comrade Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, chairman of the city people's committee, cordially received the French foreign minister and his entourage.

On behalf of the city people's committee, Chairman Nguyen Vinh Nghiep welcomed the visit to Vietnam by the French foreign minister. He said that Vietnamese-French cooperative relations had been consolidated since the last visit to Vietnam by the French foreign minister 20 months ago. He expressed the hope that this visit would help strengthen and develop further the relations between the two countries.

The French foreign minister thanked the Ho Chi Minh City administration and people for their warm welcome extended to his delegation. He expressed delight at seeing the great progress made by the city in various fields compared with the situation on his previous visit. The French foreign minister said that during the past 20 months the number of French businessmen doing business with the City had increased twofold. He expressed the hope that through his current visit Vietnam and France would expand cooperation in such fields as education and public health. He said he was confident that French-Vietnamese cooperative relations would be further consolidated and developed.

Afterward, the Ho Chi Minh City people's committee held a solemn reception to welcome the French foreign minister and his entourage.

Meets With Nguyen Manh Cam

BK2511135191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] At the Government Guesthouse on the morning of 25 November, Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs, held talks with His Excellency Roland Dumas, minister of state for foreign affairs of the French Republic. Mr. Dumas is on an official friendship visit to our country.

Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Hoang Thuc Tan, deputy director of the Office of the Council of Ministers; Nan Ky, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission; Ta Ca, deputy minister of commerce and tourism; Doan Huan, deputy director of the National Science Committee; and many high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the French side Mr. Blanchemaison, French ambassador to Hanoi, and many official members of the French delegation attended the talks.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam briefed Mr. Dumas on the main points of our foreign policy and on recent important developments in Southeast Asia. He also affirmed that Vietnam always respects and highly evaluates France's foreign policy.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam emphasized the important role of France in resolving the Cambodia issue. He reiterated that Vietnam wants to continue its close cooperation with France and other countries in implementing the Paris accord on Cambodia in order to assure a Cambodia of peace, independence, and neutrality.

Reviewing the relations between the two countries, the ministers were pleased at the fine developments in recent years and they agreed that it is necessary to move bilateral relations to a new stage for the benefit of the two peoples and for peace and development in Southeast Asia and the world.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Government, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam expressed his sincere appreciation to the French Government for its active assistance to Vietnam for the establishment and strengthening of relations with the EEC as well as for the normalization of ties with international financial and monetary organizations. He also expressed the hope that France will continue its efforts in that direction.

Mr. Dumas highly valued the SRV foreign policy of openness and diversity of relations. He affirmed his wish to strengthen the multi-faceted relations between the two countries. Mr. Dumas said that despite financial difficulties, France has still increased its budget for cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation to Vietnam by 24 percent.

On behalf of the French Government, the minister officially announced that the French Government will give Vietnam 95 million francs in non-refundable aid in 1991. He also reaffirmed that France, together with other countries, will strive to help Vietnam reestablish its relations with international financial and monetary organizations as well as with EC and Francophone countries.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of openness, friendship, and mutual understanding.

Radio Views Visit

BK2511114591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Hanoi Monday, starting an official friendship visit to Vietnam. This event will help strengthen the Franco-Vietnamese relations.

Vietnam is a second leg in Mr. Dumas' tour of the Indochinese countries after Cambodia. This is the fourth time Mr. Dumas visited Vietnam in recent years.

The visit is of great significance as it is made soon after the peace accord on Cambodia was signed in Paris. This signals a new period in business relations between Vietnam and the outside world. Mr. Dumas' visit this time is expected to contribute greatly to this process.

Prior to this visit, the French Government has decided to provide food aid to Vietnam in 1991. France will send to Vietnam 2,600 tonnes of flour and other foodstuffs worth 8.5 million francs as nonrefundable aid.

More significantly, over the past decade, France has been implementing a foreign policy independent of the U.S. Over the past two years, in particular when the U.S. is conducting trade embargo against Vietnam, France has continued to strengthen friendship, cooperation, and trade with Vietnam.

France has signed a long-term framework agreement on economic, industrial, cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation with Vietnam. The two countries have also set up an intergovernmental commission for cooperation headed by the two foreign minsiters.

The annual trade value between the two countries has amounted to 600 million francs. France ranks fourth among Western trade partners in Vietnam. The wife of President Francois Mitterrand came to Vietnam in mid this year to consider aid and assistance to Vietnam.

Now when Vietnam is facing the problem of foreign debt, France took initiative to set up a support group to help Vietnam clear its arrears. France alone contributes to this fund 50 million dolllars. France is playing a central role within Europe and European Community as it also has historical Indochinese connection.

Vietnam believes that Mr. Dumas official visit to Vietnam this time will not only help strengthen bilateral ties but also contributes to the peace and development in Southeast Asia.

Further on Australian Trade Minister's Visit

Prospects for Cooperation Noted

BK2111042591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Australia's minister for trade and overseas development, Neal Blewett, said on Sunday [17 November] the business delegation he is leading here represented full restoration of bilateral aid relations between Australia and Vietnam.

During a meeting with Vietnam's minister of commerce and tourism, Le Van Kiet, Mr Blewett said: The tragic conflict in Vietnam deeply divided people in my country. Some Australians supported intervention, some were opposed to it. But, for the past 15 years all Australians have been united in the desire for reconciliation between Vietnam and Australia, and I am glad that this visit represents the full restoration of relations between Australia and Vietnam. I am very glad to be the first minister in Vietnam since the achievement of the Cambodian settlement and the restoration of full bilateral aid relations between Vietnam and Australia. Our business delegation is very interested in consolidating the business relationship that has been established in recent years, particularly in the relations following Senator Button's trip to Vietnam last year. As you can see from the words of the members of the business delegation, we are interested not only in consolidating the relationship, but also in expanding and exploring new opportunities. At the same time, we want to work together with the Vietnamese Government to identify difficulties and impediments in that relationship so we can address those problems. Vietnam is a very high priority in terms of economic and foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Blewett went on: For the last 15 years the Australian Government has opposed countries in the region or elsewhere who would seek to isolate Vietnam from the world community. We have always believed that such isolation did not serve the interests of Vietnam nor of the region nor of the international community, and now that the Cambodian settlement has been achieved, Australia would wish to work with Vietnam in all ways to ensure the full integration of Vietnam into the world community and we would very actively work with you to develop that cooperation.

The Australian minister said he had to reduce the size of the business delegation because we could not cope with all the ones who wanted to come. Our size, he said, is a vote of confidence by leading business people in favor of the Vietnamese economy. I think there is a rather strong view among those Australians with connections in Vietnam that, with your abundant natural resources and a very tough and resilient people, tested as few people have been in the 20th century, and with a very high level of the population, Vietnam has a very promising economic future. There are many Australians, and I share their view, who see that Vietnam has the potential to be one of the economic powerhouses of Southeast Asia in the early 21st Century, and we are here today because we want to be on the ground floor, stressed the Australian minister.

He said the work that lies ahead of us in the next few days would help to further establish those relationships so that Australia may take a very real part in what we see as one of the dynamic economies of Asia in the next century.

Economic, Trade Ties Detailed

BK2111141991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Essay by Thanh Hai]

[Summary] "An Australian trade delegation led by Mr. Neal Blewett, minister of trade and overseas development, arrived in mid-November 1991 for a visit to Vietnam. The delegation plans to stay here for one week, from 16-22 November 1991.

"This is an important Australian delegation made up of 21 leading businessmen representing those companies already operating in Vietnam or which have carried out projects in our country in various fields—banking, mining, oil exploration, communications and transportation, support services, radio and television broadcasting, and so forth."

According to Mr. Neal Blewett, "in this visit, the Australian trade delegation will examine Vietnam's aid-for-development requirements and will discuss with Vietnamese representatives measures to further strengthen the trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. He also said: In the next three years the Australian Government's trade development group will be opening some offices in Vietnam. These new offices will bolster Australia's presence in the Southeast Asian region."

This is another happy bit of news for us. We witnessed many major events in Vietnamese-Australian trade relations in 1990 and early 1991. These included a visit to Vietnam by an Australian trade delegation in June 1990, the maiden flight of Quantas Airlines from Australia to Vietnam in 22 October 1990, the signing of a contract for oil exploration and exploitation in the Vietnamese continental shelf with the Australian Company BHP in January 1991, a visit to Australia of a Vietnamese economic delegation in March 1991, and most recently the inauguration of a renovated chanchery of the Australian Embassy in Vietnam on Ly Thuong Kiet Boulevard in Hanoi.

"Mr. Neal Blewett said that since the promulgation of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam, many Australian companies have seized this opportunity to come to Vietnam to do business. Australia is now one of the five largest investors in Vietnam."

Australia has attached importance to its relations of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, as evidenced by the fact that in early October 1991 it decided to resume its direct aid to Vietnam.

"At a reception given for the new Australian Ambassador John Michael Potts on 15 October, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly valued the efforts made by Australia in developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries of Vietnam and Australia. He pointed out that the fine developments in Vietnamese-Australian relations are in line with the Vietnamese Government's policy of broadening its friendly and cooperative relations with all nations in the region and the world as a whole. Not only is this in the interests of the two peoples, but it is also conducive to peace, stability, and cooperation in the region and the world.

"The chairman also exchanged views with the ambassador on the prospects of cooperation between the two countries, not only in the economic and trade domains, but also in the cultural, scientific, and technical fields. He expressed the hope that Vietnamese-Australian relations will develop ever more favorably and effectively in the period ahead. Chairman Vo Van Kiet asked the ambassador to convey his invitation to His Excellency Prime Minister Bob Hawke to visit Vietnam."

Ends Visit, Departs 21 Nov

BK2211154491 Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 21—The Australian trade delegation led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Department Neal Blewett, today concluded a five-day visit to Vietnam.

While in Hanoi, the delegation had a working session with the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, took part in a seminar on the development of the Vietnam-Australia economic and commercial relations.

The two sides noted that the economic-commercial relations between the two countries have seen initial results. They affirmed that favourable changes in the region and the rest of the world is of important significance in the expansion of their cooperation, trade and investment.

The participation in the seminar also discussed how to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects between various economic sectors of the two countries.

The delegation laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum. Mr. Blewett and his party were received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet.

The delegation also had working sessions with Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the State Committee for Planning, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, and several other ministries and economic branches. The Australian guests visited the Haiphong port city and Ho Chi Minh City. Australian Ambassador Micheal John Potts took part in the delegation's activities.

Further on Visit by Malaysian Senate Delegation

Senator Stresses Strengthening Ties

BK2411101191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Report on interview between Hanoi radio station correspondent and Malaysian Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak—date and place not given]

[Text] At the invitation of the Chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly Le Quang Dao, a Malaysian senatorial delegation led by Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak paid a visit to Vietnam.

In an interview with our radio correspondent, Mr. Datuk Chan Choong Tak said the aim of his visit this time was to study the local situation in Vietnam and to strengthen the relations between Malaysia and Vietnam.

On the relations between Vietnamese National Assembly and Malaysian Senate as well as bilateral relations, he said:

[Begin Datuk recording in Malay fading into English] At present, the relations between Malaysian Senate and Vietnamese National Assembly are fine. Leaders of the two countries have exchanged visits. [end recording]

In the fields of economy and culture, Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak said that the two countries should find out in which field we can cooperate. These can be oil and gas, agriculture, palm oil, rubber, and ore. He believes that the two countries are experienced in these economic fields.

He also informed that the two sides will also promote cultural ties. Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak welcomed Vietnam's participation in the Bali Treaty and ASEAN and said: Malaysia approves the Vietnam's joining in the Bali Treaty. He expressed a hope that Vietnam will join in the ASEAN soon.

During his stay in Vietnam, Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak had worked and held talks with high-ranking Vietnamese leaders. Senator Datuk Chan Choong Tak emphasized that Malaysia is a sincere friend of Vietnam and wishes for rapproachement. The Malaysian people hope that Vietnam and Malaysia totally cooperate with each other which have close relations as brothers of the same family. Malaysia is ready to share its experiences with Vietnam. The Malaysian prime minister and people are working for the visit of the chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and will exchange views experience and help Vietnam overcome difficulties on the road to develop the country and cooperate with other countries.

Departs for Home 23 Nov

BK2311154691 Hanoi VNA in English 1346 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 23—The Malaysian senatorial delegation led by Speaker Dato Chan Choong Tak left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding its eight-day visit to Vietnam at the invitation of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

While in Ho Chi Minh City, the Malaysian senators had working sessions with senior officials of the municipal people's council and people's committee and offices concerned. The two sides discussed measures to promote the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, contributing to national and regional development.

The Malaysian senatorial delegation visited a number of production, business, cultural and social establishments in Ho Ch Minh City and other southern provinces.

Further on Visit by German Economic Delegation

Cooperation Agreement Signed

BK2411151691 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] On 20 November evening at the Government Guest House, Ho Huan Nghiem, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission, signed the report of talks on SRV-German economic cooperation in 1991 and the coming years with Mr. Pepnick, state secretary of economic cooperation and head of the German Government's delegation.

Also authorized by our government, Vu Khoan, deputy minister of foreign affairs, signed an agreement on SRV-German technical cooperation with Mr. Pepnick, secretary of economic cooperation, and Jurgen Elias, German ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and members of the German delegation also attended the signing ceremony.

Delegation Holds Press Conference

BK2411152491 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] On 20 November evening in Hanoi, His Excellency Pepnick, state secretary of economic cooperation and head of the German Government delegation, held a press conference with Vietnam and foreign mass media agencies to brief them on the results of his Vietnam visit.

At the conference, Mr. Pepnick stressed that the visit of the German delegation marks a new page in the relations of cooperation between the two countries. Germany continues to provide Vietnam with efficient assistance, meeting the aspirations of people of both countries.

He also said that apart from agreements reached during the visit, Germany and the SRV will discuss the signing of agreements on investment protection, avoiding the double taxation of imported goods, and aviation transportation to create favorable conditions for German businessmen investing in Vietnam.

The state secretary also highly valued the results achieved by the renovation in Vietnam.

USSR's Shevardnadze Congratulated on Appointment

BK2511042891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] On the occasion of the appointment of His Excellency Eduard A. Shevardnadze as Minister of External Relations of the Soviet Union, Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has sent a congratulatory message to the latter.

Minister Welcomes UN Family Planning Official

BK2311155191 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.23 - Executive Director Dr [name indistinct] of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) arrived here this afternoon for a visit to Vietnam as guest of the Vietnamese Government.

She was welcomed [words indistinct] at guest house by Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, representatives of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning and others.

The UNFPA official was received this evening by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam who welcomed her Vietnam visit and expressed sincere thanks to the UNFPA for its valuable assistance to Vietnam.

Vice Premier Receives Indian Vice Minister

BK2311155991 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 23—Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong received in Ho Chi Minh City on Nov. 22 Jalman Khurshaed, first deputy minister of commerce of India, who is leading a visiting Indian Government economic delegation.

The delegation arrived there on the same day to discuss with the Vietnamese Government programmes of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and inaugurate the Indian pavilion at the Quang Trung Fair.

Present at the reception were Nguyen Van Huan, vice president of the city people's committee, and the Indian ambassador to Vietnam.

The Indian guests were also feted on the same day by Vice President Nguyen Van Huan. The two sides reiterated the necessity to promote the bilateral multi-sided cooperation in the interests of the two countries and of the regional development.

The delegation visited several cultural and economic establishments in the city.

It is expected to leave Ho Chi Minh City tomorrow.

Vo Van Kiet Receives ROK's Samsung Delegation

BK2211162391 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 22—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here today the visiting delegation of Samsung Industrial and Commercial Group led by Vice President Pil Gon-rhee. [name as received]

The Vietnamese leader warmly welcomed the South Korea guests here for further cooperation in industry and trade with concerned Vietnamese branches. He said Samsung might join Vietnam in the production of coal, cement, seafoods, in the production and assembly of electronic goods as well as in construction of projects in third countries with South Korea's money and technology and Vietnam's labour.

For his part, Pil Gon-rhee thanked Vietnam for facilitating Samsung's operation here in the past years. He said that Samsung [word indistinct] develop its economic and commercial ties with Vietnam on the basis of the time-honoured relations between Vietnam and South Korea.

Cooperation Accord With PRC's Yunan Province

BK2211160191 Hanoi VNA in English 1402 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 22—An agreement on the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, information, communications, transport and trade cooperation has been signed between the northern border province of Ha Giang and China's Yunnan Province.

The signing took place in Yunnan during a recent visit there by a Ha Giang delegation led by the chairman of the people's committee of the province, Giang Van Quay.

The Vietnamese delegation had working sessions with the local officials and visited a number of industrial and agricultural establishments.

Joint Venture With Taiwan in Duck, Fish Rearing

BK2411094891 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 24—The state-run Cau Tre Export Goods Processing Enterprise of Ho Chi Minh City, Formosa Co. Ltd and Jello Hung co. have entered into a joint venture companyy for duck and fish rearing, duck meat processing and animal feeds producing.

The joint venture, known as Formosa Aqua Company Ltd, (FOSACO) has an investment capital of USD one million and a prescribed capital of USD one millions which the foreign side will contribute USD 600,000. Its duration is 15 years.

80 percent of FOSACO's processed duck meat, fish and duck by-products will be for export.

Phan Van Khai Meets Japanese Commercial Mission

BK2111160491 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 21—Vice Chairman of the Council of Minister Phan Van Khai received here yesterday a 47-member mission of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCC) led by Mr. Keizo Saji, head of the OCC.

Also present at the reception was Doan Ngoc Bong, secretary general of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Keizo Saji informed the vice chairman of the remarkable results of his working sessions with a number of Vietnamese ministries and services. He stressed that in the new situation in the region, Japan is very interested in the economic-commercial cooperation with the countries in the region, especially Vietnam.

He described as significant success the agreement on cooperation reached during the visit between the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its Vietnamese counterpart.

For his part, Vice Chairman Phan Van Khai said that following an open-door policy and renovation, Vietnam needs capital and technical know-how. He said he hopes that the Osaka businessmen would be Osaka's investors in Vietnam.

Decision on Foreign Investment Assessment Issued

BK2411114091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Recently, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 366/HDBT providing a foreign investment project assessment system. The objective of the system, which is applicable to all three forms of direct investment—joint business ventures based on contracts, joint enterprises, and 100 percent foreign-funded enterprises—is to make sure that project assessment helps protect both the Vietnamese state's economic interests and investors' right of autonomy in business operations according to the market economy.

The assessment of each investment project is to be based on economic efficiency, investors' financial circumstances, the types of technology involved, market consumption, and conditions guaranteeing project implementation. The aforementioned factors will be used to determine tax brackets, durations of tax exemption or tax reduction, and other tax obligations to the state. At the same time, importance will be attached to resource utilization and environmental protection.

Construction Starts on Thac Mo Power Station

BK2411103691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] In the morning of 20 November, Ministry of Energy and Song Be People's Committee officially started the construction of Thac Mo Hydroelectricity Power Station in Phuoc Long Town of Song Be Province.

Attending the ground-breaking ceremony were Comrade Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Energy Vu Ngoc Hai, and leading comrades of party committee and people's committee of Song Be Province. Representatives from the Ministry of Water Conservancy, the Ministry of Construction, and provinces of Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, and Ho Chi Minh City also attended the ceremony. Deputy Minister (Banaza Ivanovik), representative of Ministry of Energy of the Ukraine Republic, was also present.

At 1030, Comrade Vu Ngoc Hai made a signal to explode mines at Dap Trang Construction Site, starting the first stage of the building plan of the Thac Mo Hydroelectric Power Station.

The power station will have 150 megawatts with two turbines which have a yearly production of 600 million kilowatt hours. The station will begin producing energy by 1994.

Hanoi Party Organization Congress Closes 19 Nov

BK2111111591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Summary] After three days of urgent work with a high sense of responsibility, the 11th second-round congress of the Hanoi party organization concluded today, 19 November. The congress contributed many ideas to the political report and extensively discussed the views of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi to the congress. The congress also elected a 51-member executive committee including Comrade Pham The Duyet to the 11th party organization of Hanoi.

On behalf of the congress presidium, Comrade Pham The Duyet delivered the closing speech. He said:

[Begin Pham recording] The success of the congress is a great encouragement to the strengthening of party unity and solidarity and between the party and the city's people. The path ahead is composed of both new and favorable conditions and difficulties. They require the great efforts of the capital's party organization and people to bring these conditions into full play in order to overcome difficulties, so as to be able to gradually apply the congress resolutions to daily life. This is the most important and decisive task for us after the congress. In this context, the executive committee of the 11th Hanoi party organization is dutybound to formulate a concrete action program for each stage in order to concentrate efforts on implementing the various key tasks. The capital party organization must strive to renovate its leadership in content and style. It should attach importance to providing guidance and organizing the implemention with emphasis given renovating and uniformly implementing party lines and policies, while effectively carrying out the cadre-related task. Each echelon and sector must strive to formulate plans and programs to concretize resolutions of the congress in their area of responsibility.

The congress calls on all workers, peasants, intellectuals, writers, artists, retired cadres, the armed forces, people of various strata, and the entire cadres and party members to close ranks around the party Central Committee to resolutely strengthen the political stability, firmly maintain social order and safety, stabilize and develop the socioeconomic situation, improve the people's daily life, build an increasingly strong party organization and the administration of the capital, strive to lead the renovation a step further according to the spirit of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Seventh Congress.

With close, direct leadership and guidance from the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, the party Secretariat, and the Council of Ministers and with assistance from branches and sectors at the central level, the Hanoi party organization and people will certainly attain success in implementing resolutions of the congress." [applause] [end recording]

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 22 Nov

BK2211063791 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.22—Newspapers here today front-page a report on a three-day meeting of the State Council under the chairmanship of its president Vo Chi Cong during which it heard, among other things, a report on the results of the official friendship visit to Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore from October 24 to Nov. 1 by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet.

They carry a communique released here yesterday by Vietnam's Ministry for Foreign Affairs saying that France's Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will pay an official visit to Vietnam from November 25- 26 as guest of the Vietnamese Government.

The papers report that Swedish Ambassador to Vietnam Mats Aberg and Hungarian Ambassador to Vietnam Raymond Toth yesterday paid courtesy visits to State

Council President Vo Chi Cong. Also yesterday Indonesian Ambassador Aswismarmo paid a farewell visit to the Vietnamese leader.

Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khao received here yesterday a 47-member mission of Japan's Osaka Chamber of Commerce led by Mr. Keizo Saji, head of the chamber, the papers report.

Other reports are about a meeting held here yesterday to mark the 45th anniversary of the Vietnam Red Cross Society, a five-day visit to Vietnam by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett, and the opening here of a branch office of the Indonesian Bank Ltd., the first joint venture between the Vietnam Commercial Bank and Summa Bank of Indonesia.

Prominent international reports are about the people's party of Cambodia and the Cambodian Government's recognition of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of Cambodia, and the decision by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 46th session to convene an international public health forum in Acra, Ghana in early December, and the assembly's debate on the implementation of the declaration on decolonization.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 23 Nov

BK2311073091 Hanoi VNA in English 0628 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 23—The press here today frontpages a message of greetings from State Council President Vo Chi Cong to President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Lebanon's 48th national day and a message of congratulations from Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet to Mr. S. Demirel on his appointment as prime minister of the Republic of Turkey. The papers report the Chairman Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday the visiting delegation of Samsung Industrial and Commercial Group led by Vice President Pil Gon-rhee [name as received]. Le Mai, deputy foreign minister and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state on Nov. 21 began in New York a round of talks on the normalisation of relations between Vietnam and the United States, the papers say. They report that VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY Director General Do Phuong and XINHUA Director General Mu Qing signed in Beijing on Nov. 20 an agreement of cooperation between the two agencies.

The English paper VIETNAM NEWS says that a microsurgical team from Operation Smile International (OSI) led by Dr. Craig Merrell made a 10-day visit to Vietnam ended today. Other reports are about UNICEF's emergency aid of USD 200,000 to Mekong River delta provinces hardest hit by recent floods, and the departure from Ho Chi Minh City on Friday of a 149-member sport delegation of Vietnam, including 100 athletes, for Sea Games-16 due to open in Manila, the Philippines, on November 25.

Prominent international news reports deal with the arrival in Cambodia on Friday of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for a three-day official visit, the UN Security Council's selection on Thursday of Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali to succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar as the next UN Secretary General, and the German Government's decision to renew cooperation with Vietnam, including a total aid of 29 million marks (17 million dollars) for 1991.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 25 Nov

BK2511070991 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 25—Today's newspapers announce the arrival here today of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese government.

In a relevant commentary, NHAN DAN describes this visit as a major landmark of the Vietnam-France traditional friendship and cooperation with meets interests of the two nations and contributes to consolidating peace and development in Southeast Asia.

The papers also report that an agreement on the French government's gratuitous aid to Vietnam was signed in Paris recently under which France will supply 3,650 tons of wheat flour and other foodstuff worth 8.5 million French Francs to Vietnam.

The papers frontpage a report on Vice Chairman of the Council of Minister Tran Duc Leong's recent reception of Jalman Khurshaed, first deputy minister of commerce of India, who led an Indian government economic delegation on a visit to Vietnam. Also frontpaged is a report on the Vietnam-U.S. talks on the normalization of relations of the two countries held in New York on Nov. 21 by Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon. Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here on Nov. 22 Palestianian Ambassador Sa'id al-Masri during which the chairman assured Palestinian people of Vietnam's support, the papers report.

Major economic news reports are about the import to southern Vietnam in the past few years of more than 20,000 farm machines manufactured in Japan and other countries, and the setting up in Ho Chi Minh City of a joint venture in duck and fish rearing, duck meat processing and animal feeds between Vietnam and Taiwan.

Prominent international reports deal with a resolution on the "Cambodia issue" adopted in New York recently by the United Nations General Assembly, and with the opening in Manila, the Philippines, yesterday of the 16th SEA Games in the presence of nearly 100 Vietnamese athletes.

Australia

Subcommittee To Hold Hearing on Dili Killings

BK2211071891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The chairman of the Australian parliament's new Subcommittee on Human Rights, Senator Chris Schacht, has announced plans to hold public hearings on the recent East Timor killings. Senator Schacht says the hearings are expected to run over two weeks.

[Begin Schacht recording] As chairman of the human rights subcommittee of the parliament—a new subcommittee formed by the joint foreign affairs, defense, and trade committee—I am anticipating in the next two weeks that subcommittee, chaired by myself, will hold a public hearing and take evidence from some eyewitnesses to the masssacre in Dili and evidence from Amnesty International in a public forum to put it on the record what happened in Dili last week. [End recording]

Senator Schacht also says the television footage of the massacre makes it quite clear the Indonesian troops did not panic and opened fire suddenly on the crowd at the Dili cemetery. He said the footage gives a fair indication of some forethought.

Embassy To Probe Reports of More Deaths in Dili

BK2511071691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Australian Embassy in Jakarta is to investigate reports of more killings of civilians in East Timor by Indonesian troops. A foreign affairs spokesman in Canberra confirmed the move following a claim by the East Timor resistance movement, Fretilin, that the troops had killed another 17 people.

The claim was made by Fretilin's representative in Australia, Alfredo Periera. He said seven, including a baby and another young child, were killed on 18 November because they had witnessed the shooting of 10 civilians the previous day. The 10 had seen the alleged execution on 15 November of 80 people rounded up by the military after the Dili massacre on 13 November. The execution claims, also the subject of inquiry by Australia, were reported by the Indonesian civil rights organization, TAPOL [Tahanan Politik—Political Detainees], in London and had been strongly denied by the Indonesian authorities.

The latest move by Australia comes amid growing pressure on the Australian Government to take a stronger line against Indonesia over the massacre. The issue will be raised tomorrow at a meeting in Canberra of parliamentary members of the governing Australian Labor Party, the caucus. There have also been moves for the National Trade Union action and these will be discussed at a meeting on Friday at the international committee of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Indonesia said 19 people were killed and 91 wounded in the Dili massacre, the TAPOL put the figure at 60, while other unofficial reports had spoken of a possible death toll of about 180.

Kiribati

Former Policeman Named Minister of Works, Energy

BK2111064891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] A former policeman elected to the parliament of Kiribati last month, (Tambui Nawathalai), has been appointed minister of works and energy. He replaces (Tiyawa Teniu) whose election was declared void last week by the Kiribati Supreme Court after he had been found guilty of bribery during the May elections.

Papua New Guinea

Medical Supplies to Bougainville Halted

BK2411073891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 24 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea troops have stopped medical supplies reaching the secessionist island of Bougainville and thousands are dying, according to a report broadcast here Sunday night.

Mark Scott, a New Zealand freelance reporter who recently visited the island, said there was a drastic shortage of medicines.

"Human suffering is being inflicted on a scale the Pacific has not seen since World War II," he said.

"The Papua New Guinea Army has cut vital medical supplies. More than 3,000 people have died this year."

Scott's report was broadcast by Television New Zealand on its Frontline current affairs programme.

TV footage shot by Scott included an interview with a Bougainville nurse, Ruby Mininka. "We can't go on like this. We desperately need help," she said.

Scott's said Red Cross medical supplies had been destroyed or confiscated and malaria and birth-related deaths were claiming the majority of the victims.

Mininka said people were not coming to the hospitals because they knew there were no drugs there.

"They are dying in the villages," she said. "This area has a severe malaria problem. I hope someone has some sympathy."

Scott said he had offered his own supply of anti-malaria tablets so that a dying boy could be treated. Medical authorities refused to accept them, saying he faced a severe risk himself if he gave up the medication.

Bougainville is seeking independence from Papua New Guinea and has been embroiled in a guerrilla war for the last three years.

Western Samoa

Ex-Premier Loses Seat Over Electioneeering Gifts

BK2111062791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0540 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Apia, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Supreme Court in Western Samoa has declared vacant a parliamentary seat after finding former prime minister Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi involved in a "systematic and sustained effort to subvert the political process."

In general elections in April, Tupua lost the Anoama'a Sasae seat to ruling Human Rights Protection Party candidate Moananu Salale, by 34 votes.

He challenged the result and the court in June overturned the result after finding evidence of undue influence by Moananu's party. In the subsequent by election Tupua defeated Moananu by 86 votes.

This time Moananu challenged the result and Chief Justice Anthony Ryan Wednesday upheld seven instances of bribery and "treating", handing out traditional gifts.

He said this revealed a "systematic and sustained effort to subvert the political process." He ordered another by election.

The April elections had been the first to allow universal suffrage, instead of just the country's traditional leaders, the "matai", being allowed to vote.

Tupua, whose "Tuiatua" title confers royal rank, is one of Samoa's highest chiefs and is expected by tradition to hand out gifts after speaking in villages.

But Justice Ryan rejected the traditionlist arguments and said that a section of the Electoral Act had put such customary practices on hold during elections.

The court heard that in two villages Tupua handed out cigarettes and tobacco.

But Justice Ryan said the most blatant breach of the anti-treating law was in Sauano on August 4 when Tupua spoke about the coming by election and then handed out 12 pounds of corned beef to the village.

Costs of 3,000 tala (1,300 U.S. dollars) were awarded to Moananu.